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**THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF MYANMAR
MIGRANT WORKERS ON LOCAL LABOUR MARKET IN
THAILAND: A CASE STUDY IN THE TRANG PROVINCE**



PINSUDA THONGHOM

Universiti Utara Malaysia

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(College of Law, Government and International Studies)
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

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ISKANDAR LEE ABDULLAH

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(Signature)

Pemeriksa Luar : **DR. ROSLINA ISMAIL**
(External Examiner)

Tandatangan
(Signature)

Pemeriksa Dalam : **ASSOC. PROF. DR.**
(Internal Examiner) **RATNARIA WAHID**

Tandatangan
(Signature)

Tarikh : **29 Januari 2020**
Date

Nama Pelajar
(Name of Student) : MISS PINSUDA THONGHOM (822296)

Tajuk Tesis
(Title of the Thesis) : THE ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACTS OF MYANMAR
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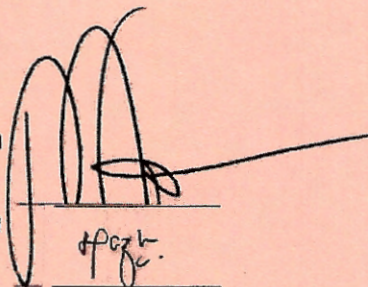
Program Pengajian
(Programme of Study) : MASTER

Penyelia Pertama
(First Supervisor) : PROF. DATO' DR. AHMAD
BASHAWIR HAJI ABDUL GHANI

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(Signature)

Penyelia Kedua
(Second Supervisor) : DR. NAZARIAH OSMAN

Tandatangan
(Signature)

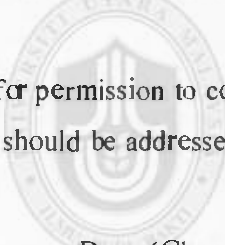
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ABSTRACT

In the past few years, millions of Burmese laborers migrated to Thailand in order to get a better job. These migrant workers have been rendered a cheap labor source by employers. They are also engaged in dirty and risky jobs. Hence, employers prefer to employ them rather than the locals. Consequently, many Thai workers have been rendered jobless. This incident upsets the Thai workers. Furthermore, Thailand's income is stronger than that of Myanmar and that has attracted Burmese workers to Thailand. This inequality slows down the growth of Thai labor and increases the demand for cheap labor from Burmese. This study aims to examine the economic impacts of Myanmar migrant workers on local labor market in Trang, Thailand. It also investigates social impact caused by the presence of these migrants. The study further investigates the migrant policy efficiently of the Thai government. The study is situated within the framework of the push-pull and neoclassic economic theories. This study adopts qualitative method; both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data were obtained from in-depth interviews with 25 informants. Whereas, the secondary data were gathered from books, journal articles and online sources. The interviews were transcribed and thematically analyzed. The study found that, the employers prefer to employ migrant workers because they are willing to work longer hours than Thai workers. The study established that Myanmar workers have negative impact on Thai labor market. In view of this, the study recommends that the Thai government should formulate a policy that will checkmate illegal migrants from working in the country. It also suggests that, the government should make a policy that will encourage the use of local labor.

Keywords: Myanmar, migrant, local workers, labor market, Thailand

ABSTRAK

Dalam beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini, berjuta-juta buruh Burma berhijrah ke Thailand untuk mendapatkan pekerjaan yang lebih baik. Pekerja migran ini telah dijadikan sumber tenaga kerja yang murah oleh majikan. Mereka juga terlibat dalam pekerjaan yang kotor dan berisiko. Oleh itu, majikan lebih suka menggajikan mereka daripada pekerja tempatan. Akibatnya, banyak pekerja tempatan Thailand telah hilang pekerjaan. Kejadian ini menyebabkan pekerja tempatan Thailand tidak berpuas hati. Tambahan pula, keadaan ekonomi Thailand yang lebih kukuh daripada Myanmar dan itu telah menarik pekerja Burma ke Thailand. Ketidaksamaan ini melambatkan pertumbuhan buruh Thailand dan meningkatkan permintaan buruh murah dari Burma. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji kesan ekonomi pekerja migran Myanmar terhadap pasaran buruh tempatan di Trang, Thailand. Ia juga mengkaji kesan sosial yang disebabkan oleh kehadiran para pendatang ini. Kajian ini selanjutnya mengkaji kecekapan dasar migrasi kerajaan Thailand. Kajian ini terletak dalam kerangka teori ekonomi push-pull dan neoklasik. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah kualitatif; data primer dan sekunder digunakan. Data primer atau utama diperoleh dari wawancara mendalam dengan 25 informan. Manakala, data sekunder dikumpulkan dari buku, artikel jurnal dan sumber dalam talian. Temu ramah ditranskrip dan dianalisis secara tematik. Kajian ini mendapati bahawa, para majikan lebih berminat mengambil pekerja migran untuk bekerja kerana mereka sanggup bekerja lebih masa berbanding dengan pekerja tempatan Thailand. Kajian tersebut membuktikan bahawa pekerja Myanmar memberikan kesan negatif terhadap pasaran buruh Thailand. Sehubungan dengan itu, kajian ini telah mengesyorkan agar pihak kerajaan Thailand harus merangka satu polisi yang mengharamkan pendatang tanpa izin untuk bekerja di negara tersebut. Kajian ini juga mencadangkan bahawa, pihak kerajaan seharusnya membuat polisi yang akan mendorong kepada penggunaan tenaga kerja tempatan.

Kata Kunci: Myanmar, pendatang, pekerja tempatan, pasaran buruh, Thailand

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERMISSION TO USE	i
ABTRACT	ii
ABTRAK	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENT	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xi
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background of Study	3
1.3 Statement of Problem	7
1.4 Research Questions	11
1.5 Objective of the Study	11
1.6 Significance of the Study	11
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	12
1.8 Research Methodology	13
1.8.1 Research Design	13
1.8.2 Case Study	15
1.8.3 Data Collection	16
1.8.4 Primary data	16
1.8.5 Interview Technique	16
1.8.6 Interview Guide Question	17
1.8.7 Sampling Design	18
1.8.8 Secondary Data	19
1.8.9 Data Analysis	19
1.9 Literature Review	19
1.9.1 Migrant Workers	19
1.9.2 Economic Impacts	22
1.9.2.1 Labor Wage	23
1.9.2.2 Labor Demand	25
1.9.3 Social Impacts	27
1.9.3.1 Public Health	27
1.9.3.2 Crime	29

1.9.4 Migrant Policy	32
1.10 Research Gap	35
1.11 Theoretical Framework	35
1.11.1 Push-Pull theory	36
1.11.2 Neoclassical Theory	39
1.12 Operational Definitions	42
1.12.1 Migrants	42
1.12.2 Migrant Workers	42
1.12.3 Unskilled Migrant Workers	42
1.12.4 Legal Migrants	43
1.12.5 Illegal Migrants	43
1.12.6 Labor Market	43
1.12.7 Economic Impacts	44
1.12.8 Wage Labor	44
1.12.9 Labor Demand	44
1.12.10 Social Impacts	44
1.12.11 Public Health	44
1.12.12 Crime	44
1.12.13 Migrant Policy	45
1.12.14 Burma and Burmese	45
1.13 Chapterisation	45

CHAPTER TWO: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MYANMAR

MIGRANTS IN THAILAND 47

2.1 Introduction	47
2.2 Civil War in Myanmar	48
2.3 Thai- Myanmar Relations	53
2.4 Burmese Migration to Thailand	57
2.5 Myanmar Migrant Workers at Trang Province	59
2.6 Chapter Summary	61

CHAPTER THREE: ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON NATIVE LABOR MARKET 64

3.1 Introduction	64
3.2 Economic Impact of Myanmar Migrant Workers at Trang	66
3.2.1 Wage	70
3.2.1.1 Migrant Workers on the Wage of Native Workers	71
3.2.1.2 Minimum Wage Policy of Local Workers in Thailand	72
3.2.1.3 Myanmar Migrant Workers affect Thai Minimum Wage	76
3.2.2 Labor Demand	80
3.2.2.1 Labor Market Characteristics	81
3.2.2.2 Labor Shortage	84
3.2.2.3 Employers Choose Myanmar Migrant Workers	85
3.2.2.4 Negative Labor Demand Effects	87
3.3 Chapter Summary	92

CHAPTER FOUR: SOCIAL IMPACTS ON NATIVE LABOR MARKET **96**

4.1 Introduction	96
4.2 Social Impact of Myanmar Migrant Workers at Trang	98
4.2.1 Crime	99
4.2.1.1 Property Problem	100
4.2.1.2 Drugs Problem	107
4.2.2 Public Health	114
4.2.2.1 Safe-Care	114
4.2.2.2 Professional Supervision	115
4.2.2.3 Health problems of Burmese Workers	115
4.2.2.3.1 Rights and Legal Issues	115
4.2.2.3.2 Illness with Communicable Disease	116
4.2.2.3.3 Communication Problems	116
4.2.2.3.4 Problems Accessing Health Service	117
4.2.2.3.5 The Cause of Death of Burmese Laborers	118
4.3 Chapter Summary	122

CHAPTER FIVE: POLICY ON MIGRANT WORKER'S LABOR MARKET **124**

5.1 Introduction	124
5.2 Labor Market Entry Policy for Myanmar Migrant Workers	125
5.2.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	134
5.2.2 Nationality Verification (NV)	137
5.3 Migrant Law Penalties	141
5.4 Management problems of Myanmar Workers Affecting the Thai Labor Market	142
5.5 Chapter Summary	151

CHAPTER SIX: DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS	154
6.1 Introduction	154
6.2 The Economic Impact of Myanmar Migrant Workers Toward Thai Labor Market	154
6.3 The Social Impact Caused Myanmar Migrant Worker	156
6.4 The Thai Government Efficiency in Improving Migrant Workers' Policy	158
 CHAPTER SEVEN: CONCLUDING AND RECOMMENDATION	 160
7.1 Introduction	160
7.2 Concluding Remarks	160
7.3 Research Contributions	162
7.4 Theoretical Contributions	163
7.5 Methodological Contributions	163
7.6 Practical Contributions	164
7.7 Limitations of the Study	164
7.8 Recommendations	164
7.9 Recommendations for Further Research	165
 REFERENCE	 167
APPENDICE	179

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 The number of Myanmar migrant in Trang province on March 2018	60
Table 3.2 The current wage in Thailand and Myanmar	78
Table 5.3 The number of Myanmar migrant in Thailand on March 2018	139



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1 Trang province map	6
Figure 1.2 Lee's Push and Pull theory	38
Figure 3.3 Minimum wage in Thailand by 2009-2013	76
Figure 3.4 Employment by sector 2016	82
Figure 3.5 Unemployment rate and informal workforce per region in Thailand (%) 2016	83



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CPB	Communist Party of Burma
EU	The European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDPs	Intrusion Detection System
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMO	International Maritime Organization
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOL	Ministry of Labor
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDF	National Democratic Front
NV	Nationality Verification
NWC	Net Working Capital
ODA	Official Development Aid
PEO	Provincial Employment Agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
SSNA	Shan State National Army
SSPP	Shan State Progress Party
RCSS	Restoration Council of Shan State
TDRI	Thailand Development Research Institute
THB	Thai Bath
USA	United States of America

US
USD

United States
United States Dollar



LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A List of respondents	179
Appendix B Informed Consent Form	181
Appendix C Interview Research Question Guide	182



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

International migration is often understood as the movement of people from their motherland to another country where they settle to work, as well as engage themselves with the host community. This is not a new phenomenon as it is happening all over the world. In most cases, it is usually the movement of people from the less developed nations to highly developed or developing countries in search of greener pastures. Moreover, history about human being has made it clear that human beings have been known to migrate from one place to another in search of food, clothing and shelter. Over the past few decades, there has been a lot of human mobility largely due to several factors such as political instabilities in their home countries, unemployment and accessible means of transportation, among others. The phenomenon of human migration is well felt in South East Asia where people from countries like Indonesia, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia and Burma migrate to countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

In the past few years, millions of people from Myanmar had no choice but to leave the country due to security issues under the rule of the military, arson, economic hardship, ethnic riots and oppression. While the number of people who have left Myanmar has grown, the present civilian government regime has been trying to revive their economy by using market liberalization. However, the economy is still far from being developed because of the monopoly and economic sphere as well as the suspension of international

economic assistance, thus, making the country's economic management more difficult. Moreover, the life of the rural people in Myanmar has not improved dramatically in the last twenty years. The people living in rural places in Myanmar lack political freedom due to military domination, especially in places where minorities live. As a direct result of the severe political, economic, and cultural conflicts in Burma, many people have crossed the border into neighboring Thailand (Knight, 2015).

The increase in the number of Myanmar migrant workers is the result of Thailand's national development factors that emphasize on making it a manufacturing-based country for the industrial sector and providing more foreign investment opportunities in the country. Thailand is, therefore, the main country with an increasing rate of migrant workers entering every year seeking to work in Thailand which has better economic conditions. Most entrepreneurs agree that hiring migrant workers can reduce production costs. Migrant workers are diligent and are not concerned with the wage rate is both legal and illegal. Thetkathuek and Danielle (2016) observed that the entry of such migrant workers causes Thailand various problems such as drug-related crimes, environmental and social issues, to name a few. These problems affect the livelihood of the Thai people at all levels.

Therefore, this study focuses on the economic and social impacts of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, in particular, at the Trang province which is accessible by sea. At Kantang district border, Burmese migrants are able to cross the country by boat. Therefore, many Burmese workers move to Trang province to work both in the fishery and agriculture industries. There is a high concentration of Burmese in that area caused

by these workers' migration. Moreover, this research will also highlight on policy improvement guidelines for the migrant workers' problem in Thailand. This section discusses the background of study, statement of problem, the research questions and objectives, the theoretical framework, the significance of the research, the research limitation and scope as well as chapterization.

1.2 Background of Study

Indeed, there has been immigration from neighboring Cambodia and Laos into Thailand as well. However, in 2017, the largest group of migrants to Thailand came from Myanmar (Kyi, 2018). The Burmese government estimated that 4.2 million people have migrated to other countries. The recent census showed that the majority of its nationals came from Mon State (427,000), Kayin State (323,000), Shan State (236,000) and others. It also claimed that about 70% of its nationals living abroad are based in Thailand, followed by Malaysia 15%, China 6.4%, Singapore 9.3 % and the USA 1.9%. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that there could be as many as three million Myanmar migrants living in Thailand since the opening of the first three borders in 1992 which include—Myawaddy (opposite Mae Sot), Tachileik (opposite Mae Sai) and Kaukthaung (opposite Ranong) (Gindling, 2014).

Many Myanmar migrants cross the border between Thailand and Myanmar to work in Thailand. The larger number of the Myanmar immigration was witnessed in Thailand after the political unrest that broke out in the country around 1988 among the incomplete economic development of the country. As a result, thousands of Myanmar people and other ethnics traveled out of their country into Thailand (Lahey, 2008). At first, Thailand

did not establish any strategy to achieve the migration process from her neighboring countries. This was because Thailand's financial boom and demand from Thai entrepreneurs required the government to open the Thai labor marketplace to these migrants.

The consent to permit low-skilled migrants from neighboring countries to labor in Thailand for the first time began in 1992 at the three border provinces mentioned earlier. It later expanded to seven other provinces of Tak, Chiang Rai, Changmai, Kanchanaburi, Mae Hongson, Ranong and Phachuap Khirikhan. Notably, these provinces are limited to migrant workers from Burma. In 1996, the Thai Cabinet voted to register migrant workers from three countries which include Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. More than 80% of registered migrants come from Burma. Most of them came to Thailand both via legal and illegal means. They worked in factories known as 3D (dirty, dangerous and difficult), abandoned by Thai workers (Meyer et al., 2016). The official status of these migrants was registered as legal and they could labor provisionally. The registering is on an annual foundation with the aim of allowing migrant workers to temporarily work in Thailand.

Policies on temporary registration and management of migrant workers received the approval of the Thai cabinet in 2001. In fact, the Thai administration allowed them to live and work in limited zones, although some entered the country without appropriate document and permission and infringed migration law. The registration policies were adjusted in 2003 for unskilled migrant workers under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to issue a temporary visa. Furthermore, the Burmese and Thai governments have agreed to proceed with the Nationality Verification (NV) by which Burmese migrants

would be given temporary visa for illegal registration. Both types of registered temporary visas are valid for only four years, and they must wait for another three years before they can return to work in Thailand (Chantavanich & Kamonpetch, 2017).

Unfortunately, the registration fee for this scheme is expensive for Myanmar migrant workers, thus, they tend to avoid the registration process so as to save more money. As a result, the Thai government has introduced a law to punish such workers. First, employers who employ Burmese migrant workers without a work permit or who do not work under a specified category during registration face imprisonment. Such individuals would be severely punished and fined, and their business might be deregistered. Secondly, Myanmar illegal migrant workers can register for the NV visa as mentioned earlier as soon as possible. If they failed to comply, they would be punished respectively and returned to Myanmar eventually.

The Burmese migrants are concentrated in industrial and professional locations, most of whom are low-skilled workers in Bangkok, Southern and Northwestern Thailand. Most of these employees are used in farming, fisheries, construction, producing and the service sector. The study by Pholpirul and Kamlai (2014) confirms this by estimating that migrants increased agricultural production by approximately 1.33 %, which is more than the increase in production by the service sector of 0.53 %, as compared to case of the migrants.

Ever since the introduction of rubber to Thailand in the early 1900s, Thailand has become the world's number one rubber exporter. Initial planting commenced in Trang province.

Trang is a southern province of Thailand situated on the western side of the Malaysian Peninsula, adjacent to the Andaman Sea. It shares the same boarder with Krabi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung and Satun provinces. Trang used to be a port associated with foreign trade. It is the earliest place that witnessed the planting and growth of rubber in Thailand by Phraya Ratsadanuprad Mahison Phakdi who brought the rubber seeds from Malaysia in 1899. Today, rubber is a major export of the country that industrial plants require to meet the needs of the world market. Hence, the high demand for rubber has made the rubber industry prefer cheap and hard-working Myanmar migrant workers and save production cost in order to get the most worthwhile profits.

The number of Myanmar migrant workers in Trang province was 12,621 in 2017, especially, in Kantang district (Kampan & Tanielian, 2017), where unemployed workers reside. Myanmar migrant workers replaced local workers in hotels, restaurants and fishery as well as in the rubber industry. Moreover, some jobs are not popular with local workers because it is difficult, dirty with uncertain working hours (Panthamit, 2017). Nonetheless, some of these migrants who entered Thailand illegally without documents under the MOU and NV face the risk of arrest in doing this risky work.

Figure 1.1: Trang province map



Source: Tongkaemkaew and Chambon (2018)

1.3 Statement of Problem

Migrant workers have wages lower than Thai workers at 60-80 Baht per day, with many migrant workers willing to accept the lower rate required by the law. For this reason, the wages of migrant labors are lower, causing an imbalance in the wage structure in the country. Hence, unskilled Thai workers are unemployed and received low income. According to Pholphirul and Rukumnuaykit (2017), argued that most employers or industries chose to hire migrant workers in a production process that does not require high skills. Consequently, low skilled native labors are less likely to get a job, particularly in provinces with dense migrant workers. The increase in the supply of low-level labor has resulted in lower wages in Thai labor.

Moreover, as the majority of migrant laborers working in the same activities as Thai workers earned much lower wages than the locals, this affect the security of Thai workers. As Thai laborers are easily replaced by migrant workers, employers have bargaining powers over their Thai employees. As a result, employers do not provide benefits to the employees that they are entitled to. As a result, employers do not provide benefits to the employees that they are entitled to despite the high level of national development, thus, exploiting the Thai workers. Although the government has set a minimum wage on each sector, entrepreneurs are more likely to hire foreign laborers than Thai workers and chose to use cheap labor by not paying attention to improving production efficiency.

According to Naknok (2016), the development of production potential needs to improve the efficiency of factors of production as an important force. The production factors which

are important variables of production productivity are labor and capital. Similarly, Curran, Meijer-Irons and Garip (2016) provided that focusing on low-labor cost advantage may not encourage entrepreneurs to find ways to increase production efficiency in order to find other advantages. In addition, low-production efficiency due to the increased use of unskilled labor will lead to disadvantages in the long-term competition. This would impede the progress towards a learning society and greatly impair slowing progress towards becoming a learning society and greatly impair the ability to negotiate in the international trade arena (Saksiruthai, 2015).

At the same time, Thailand has a continuously expanding economy and investment increase demand for labor at all levels. As a result, Thai workers have the opportunity to find jobs with higher wages, higher compensation. Therefore, Thai workers will not do the risky, difficult and dirty jobs. It is the main reason that makes entrepreneurs turn to migrant workers. The continuous influx of multinational laborers resulted in many migrant laborers in Thailand. The competition aimed at work between the Thai workers and the foreign laborers causes various industrial sectors to use only unskilled labor and no development of industrial structure that need skilled labor. For this reason, it affects the development of Thai workers' skills, including the import of migrant workers. Hence, the number of migrant laborers exceed the demand of the real labor market.

In addition, this has resulted in the labor market being unable to increase product value in production. Likewise, it is a burden to look after migrant workers. The government has difficulty in setting policies for managing migrant labor in various industrial sectors since

there is no real quantitative data to use in analyzing the demand for unskilled labor in the labor market. The number of such workers is unclear because in some cases some have entered the country illegally although they may be able to find work and live in the cities through legal means. The information does not appear clearly on the migrants' registration.

Migrant workers may have entered into Thailand through various means, either by themselves or through the efforts of the Thai employers whether legally or illegally, causing problems such as unfair wages. Besides, in terms of economic security one must see the total impact of employing many migrant workers. While also giving importance to social impacts and public health consist to create a balance between employment of Thai and migrant workers in order not to affect the stability of Thai workers. Thatsanai (2017) who reflected on the paranoia of Thai workers towards migrant workers found that more than half felt that migrants were a threat to the safety of life and property. This is partly due to reports of crimes committed by migrant workers, therefore, creating a feeling of terror in the area. In their survey, Thatsanai (2017) observed the paranoia of competition in the labor market where more than half of the employers opted for migrant workers who competed for Thai jobs in the labor market.

Presently, Thailand has many illegal migrant workers resulting in work competition among them as well because some are unemployed, thus, causing theft in the community where many illegal migrant workers live. Moreover, have been quarrels that resulted from heavy drinking and stealing at factories and in the Thai societies, causing approximately

Thais to become suspicious and afraid of the danger posed by unlawful migrant workers living in the community. This was the case in Trang province where many migrant workers live. There is a need for coexistence between the illegal migrant workers and the Thais but there is a lack of regulation of illegal migrant workers. Psychologically, Thai workers in the community are afraid. In the past, Thai workers in the community have seen controversy, mayhem and the deaths of illegal workers in the community.

Migrant laborers who committed crimes are mostly illegal and unregistered migrants. After the crime, they would often escape to work with their friends or family in the workplace without fleeing the country and were not afraid of the law. This is because there are no records of their profile to verify their identity. Although legally registered migrant workers receive health check-ups and undergo tests for diseases from provincial public health departments and carry health insurance cards, these are very few (Kusakabe & Pearson, 2010). Some of these illegal migrant workers have contagious diseases and illnesses that Thailand had previously controlled. The following diseases were found were malaria, tuberculosis, elephantiasis, dengue fever, leprosy and meningococcal. If the government does not well control the diseases, they may spread in Thailand again. As for the influence on public well-being expenses or the budget, the rule would incur costs in managing these problems (Kusakabe & Pearson, 2010).

In addition, the government duty shares the incomes meant for the Thai citizen in health elevation, disease regulator and deterrence, including medical workers, medical apparatus, costs and period for monitoring, in solving public health problems of migrant workers. Trang province, in particular, bear the high burden because there are many people who

use the service. These migrant labor groups are problems that the government must attach great importance to. Lastly, allowing workers to be visible within the state system is vital to avoid negative social impact and economic damage to the country (Huguet, 2014). Therefore, this study examines the economic and social impacts of Myanmar migrant workers on native labor market in Trang province, Thailand, as a case study.

1.4 Research Questions

- Q1. What is the economic impact of Myanmar migrant workers toward Thai labor market?
- Q2. What kind of social impact have these Myanmar migrant workers caused?
- Q3. How could the Thai government efficiently improve migrant workers' policy?

1.5 Objective of the Study

- 1. To assess the economic impact of Myanmar migrant workers toward Thai labor market.
- 2. To investigate the social impact of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.
- 3. To explore the improvement of migrant labor policy effectively by the Thai government.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of this research is in three main domains:

First, this research examined the economic characteristics of migrant worker in Thailand, inclusive of with illegal worker. This research investigated the migrant workers in low income resource settings and the risk they might encounter at various stages of the migration process which include direct violations of migrant rights, migrant working conditions and migrant trafficking that are perceived to have affected migrants in larger

numbers that have both, directly and or indirectly, violated migrants' right. This is deemed necessary because there are limited studies which gave attention to migrant workers specifically on a large scale.

Secondly, this research examined the economic impacts which include labor wage and labor demand which are considered as important factors that contribute to the Thai economy as discussed in the literature review section. There is a greater demand for low-skilled Myanmar labors who seek better jobs and higher wages in Thailand. However, the Thai government have not defined the minimum wage for migrants. Furthermore, this study contributes theoretically to the body of knowledge by engaging cognition push-pull and neoclassic theory. In addition, this study provided economic stakeholders insight on the influence of Myanmar migrant labors in Thailand economy. In other words, the findings from the result of this research will be deemed resourceful by Thai Ministry of Labor that handles migrant processing and issues relating to migrants. Lastly, the study will assist the Thai management to define migrant policy to rid illegal migrant workers.

1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study is to explore the effect of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand from 2013 to 2019. The year 2013 was selected because the Thai government promulgated the new minimum wage policy of 300 Baht (USD9.20) per day for local workers. Meanwhile, the year 2019 is the latest year in which secondary research data can be gathered. Due to Myanmar workers is selected in this research and the problems associated with the economic and social impacts in Thailand are matters in public domain in the news media, official and unofficial reports, books, journal and articles for the reason that they have

become critical and calling for urgent managing. Therefore, the limitation of this study was collected data between 18/2/2019 to 18/6/2019. This depends, however, on the number of respondent available as well as the appropriate time for master's degree by research. Moreover, the interviews varied in length, from normally one to two hours. In-depth and face-to-face interviews were conducted over four-month period amounting to 89 hours. Some participants were interviewed more frequently than others, depending on their involvement in the impact or their roles in managing impact.

This study had gathered data by qualitative method which was gathered through in-depth interview technique. However, to achieve the objective of this research, there were 25 of respondents who are the selected number of Myanmar migrant among Fisher industry and Thai Kong Rubber industry which were consist of two employers, nine local workers, two staffs of Immigration Department and two staffs in Trang Ministry of Labor were interviewed. The reasons for choosing those respondents were because they have broad ideas and experience due to the long duration, they have spent in Trang province.

1.8 Research Methodology

1.8.1 Research Design

This research employed a qualitative research method. In areas such as politics, health, education-and any other fields. Where informants are often hard to locate or have little incentive to disclose sensitive information, a survey would be an ideal format. Moreover, there seems to be an increasing acceptance of the value of qualitative methods (Rogers-Dillon, 2005).

The main point of the research was to examine strategies and methods which Thailand uses in conducting its migrant's policy. The research method helped reconstruct logic that explains and justifies the use of specific research tools. Accordingly, this research adopted the qualitative method using both primary and secondary sources. In qualitative research, data is sourced through field work which includes interview that aids the understanding of the economic phenomenon. Qualitative research requires that the researcher develops a good knowledge about the informant, as it will help the informant give the researcher all necessary information needed to address particular research questions (Crouch & McKenzie, 2006).

Qualitative research methods have been receiving more considerable attention over the past decade. The qualitative research design examines a phenomenon, studies individuals' behavior, interaction between nations, organization function, and cultural phenomenon. It also aids in the study of political institutions which is best analyzed and understood. The motive for choosing qualitative research method in data collection and analysis is to enable the participant in the research to express their views on the issue at stake instead of providing fixed limited answers in the form of question interview. This will allow the informants to be flexible with their answers. Also, the problem under investigation has to do with economic impact which can best be measured by local response, not numbers or figures. Qualitative research in these cases succinctly fits in because it will aid field investigation in obtaining the necessary information.

1.8.2 Case Study

Case study refers to contextual analysis of common situation in other organizations. The nature of the problem seems to be the same as experienced in the current situation. Williams (2007) defined case study as an in-depth research that investigates contemporary phenomenon within its natural setting. Therefore, this research uses Trang province as a case a study.

Trang province produces the best quality rubber varieties and the most production or output in Thailand. Trang province has an area of approximately 1,400,000 of rubber plantations. Currently, the rubber wood industry in Trang province consisting of 46 rubber wood processing factories, three furniture wood furniture factories, one rubber wood children's toy factory, with an export value in 2011 amounting to 170,521.80 million baht, which is the highest in Thailand (Tongkaemkaew & Chambon, 2018). Meanwhile, the Thai rubber industry has encountered economic problems such as the fluctuation of rubber wood prices, which affected the cost of production. The cost of wage in Thailand is higher than its competitors. There is also shortage of operating funds, resulting in high production costs, among others. Therefore, operators looked to foreign labors to reduce production costs in the area.

This attracted Myanmar migrant workers, both legal and illegal, to travel to Trang province that has investment potential in both the industrial sector as well as agricultural and tourism service sectors. It has resources that are important for production and service. The province is also accessible, both by water and by land, that supports and encourages investment. Moreover, in general, the natives in the province are more affluent and often

send their children for higher education, which is valued, even though they might find it difficult to get employment after graduation. This is because production-related establishments require less educated employees. The lack of labor resulted in migrant workers pouring into the Trang area. This is especially the case in Kantang District which is an area that has ports and services with high economic growth, resulting in a large number of Myanmar migrant workers in the area.

1.8.3 Data Collection

The tool for data collection can be divided into two; primary and secondary sources. The primary source includes interviews with informants who are crucial in answering the questions posed by the research and gaining data through observations during the field work. Secondary sources are books, journals, articles, internet resources, conference papers, and newspapers.

1.8.4 Primary data

Primary data were collected via in-depth interview; with informants who have relevant and skillful knowledge on the subject matter of the research.

1.8.5 Interview Technique

An interview is a core method under qualitative research; this research utilized in-depth interview. Boyce and Neale (2006) noted that in-depth interview is important in cases where the researcher wants comprehensive information on a subject matter. It provides the respondents with the opportunity to express their views adequately. A researcher is

expected to inquire about a specific phenomenon from the informants which would help in broadening the knowledge during interviews and discussions. To this end, an in-depth interview is most suitable for this research as little is known on the economic impacts of Myanmar migrants in the literature. Therefore, this study utilized interview as the primary mode of data collection to gain a rich, in-depth and full understanding of the workings of the Thai government policy in the conduct of its Myanmar migrants.

For the purpose of the in-depth interview in this research, two key interview instruments were developed, and both facilitates the process of data collection. The first, and most important, is the Informed Consent Form (Appendix B) which contains a voluntary agreement of individual interviewees who participated in the interview process. In this form, prospective interviews were informed on ethical issues such as confidentiality of their response and the fact that no financial or non-financial benefit will be given to them by virtue of participation in the research process. The second is the Interview Question Guide (Appendix C) which consists of the main interview questions which is complemented by appropriate probing questions to clear any ambiguity that may likely arise from the interview. This guide ensures that the chain of evidence in this research remains unbroken insofar as the in-depth interview is concerned. This was moderated on an ongoing basis during the course of data collection.

1.8.6 Interview Guide Question

Appendix C presents the interview guide followed throughout the fieldwork. The list of questions was a useful guide but the questions were sometimes adjusted to accommodate responses at the time, during, or from previous interviews. The interview guide was used

flexibly, meaning that the researcher made changes to the planned guide where necessary, according to the different responsibilities and experience of the interviewees. Bowen (2009) suggested that a researcher should have a good knowledge of interviewing technique in order to formulate the right questions in the right way while listening carefully, taking good notes, and following up with relevant additional questions. In order to have an open and “honest” response, the interviewees were informed about the purpose of the study before the beginning of each interview. The researcher also stressed to interviewees the confidentiality of information gathered from the interviews.

1.8.7 Sampling Design

The study utilized purposive sampling and saturation procedure. Bowen (2009) stated that in qualitative research samples are likely to be carefully chosen in a way recognized as purposive sampling. The goal of purposive sampling is to emphasize characteristics of the population that will be suitable to answer the research questions. Meanwhile, saturation entails data satisfaction. It is a point at which the researcher reaches a point where available data suffice, and no new information is obtained from the interviewees. Saturation point determines the sample size in qualitative research as it specifies that adequate data has been collected to aid detailed analysis of the study (Mason, 2010). On face-to-face interview the researcher interviewed 25 respondents including: two staff of Immigration Department, two staff in Trang Ministry of Labor, an employer at rubber industry, an employer at fisher industry, seven legal Myanmar migrant workers, three illegal Myanmar migrant workers and nine local workers. The reasons for choosing those

respondents were because they have broad ideas and experience due to the long duration, they have spent in Trang province.

1.8.8 Secondary Data

The secondary data sources included the use of research engines such as Google Scholar, Taylor & Francis and Wiley, among others. Meanwhile, the secondary data included journals on economic impacts and policy document from the Ministry of Labor, newspapers and government official's releases, previous theses and dissertations.

1.8.9 Data Analysis

The research data collected from the field using interview method were transcribed by the researcher after which a thematic analysis was performed, employing a qualitative approach that involved understanding the theory and interpreting the data (Denzin, 2008). Thematic analysis provided an avenue for this researcher's involvement and data interpretation in a research process. This included emphasizing on codes identification and themes generation.

1.9 Literature Review

1.9.1 Migrant Workers

The growing pace of economic globalization has created additional migrant workers than ever before. Unemployment and growing poverty have encouraged many workers in developing countries to seek work elsewhere, whereas developed countries have augmented their demand for labor, particularly unskilled labor. At the same time migrant

workers face economic inequalities within the labor market and are vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking (Ronda et al., 2016).

Othman (2015) stated that Malaysia has experienced a considerable growth and it is moving farther from the agriculture-based economy to varying economic sectors that have led to substantial new job opportunities, with employment increasing quicker whereas the labor force growth is slow. This has caused an influx of both lawful and unlawful external labors into the work market that was able to meet the requirements of the employment marketplace for rapid economic growth.

A study by Peri (2014) highlighted the following concerns:

1. Reliance on foreign workers could delay an up grading of technical skills, mechanization and automation.
2. Employment of foreign workers could lead to decline in productivity in some sectors of the economy, depresses local wages and drains the economy due to remittances sent to the country of origin;
3. High cost of monitoring, control, detention and deportation of illegal migrants;
4. The worry of the intrusion of foreign nationals into the state electoral roll, which may upset the balance of power between the various ethnic-based political parties in the state;
5. The presence of a large number of low skill foreign workers place a heavy stress on state medical facilities as well as other social services and public amenities.

The movement of workers across boundaries is determined not only by push factors that inspire migrants to improve living condition, but also by pull factors from economic organizational by changes in economic organizations in the country of importing labor. Similarity, Hollifield, Martin and Orrenius (2014) said that people moved due to expected improvements to another place, which would include higher salaries, better job offer and better living standard, to name a few. Another study by Narayanan and Lai (2014) addressed concerns about the impact of great trust on migrant workers in the industrial area. They discovered that migrants came to work as in the area when there was shortage of labor due to higher wages compared to if they were to seek employment in their country of origin.

According to Ahsan et al. (2014), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in East Asia and the Pacific has announced that 14,809 out of 37, 446 prisoners were mostly illegal migrants. This situation has created a huge burden on the government as it has to bear the costs of upkeeping the migrants or foreign prisoners. This did not comprise the rate of deportation of migrant labors to their household origin afterward incarceration or arrest. In addition, Facchini, Mayda and Mendola (2013) found that migrant in South Africa has a negative impact on the native employment rate in the district, however, not at the national level. Nevertheless, there was no clear conclusion of the impact on the locals' wages as the estimation procedure of the wages carried out by respective parties varied.

Moreover, Abdul-Rahman, Wang, Wood and Low (2012) showed that the Malaysian building segment signified that migrants are considered to displace local workers, induced criminal activity and slowed down technological advancement. The outcomes of this study

showed that the major negative effects imposed by migrant labors are “Reliance on foreign workers too much (Abdul-Rahman et al., 2012).” Their presence has resulted in the rise of criminal movement or social complications as well as undocumented registry. Therefore, the flow of migrant labors was principal to a negative effect on a country’s economic and social well-being, thus, creating problems in the future.

In studying the issue on migrant workers, scholars have increasingly paid attention to the influence of recent studies on the impact of migrant workers worldwide, especially the profound effect on the economy and social environment of the destination country. From the perspective of foreign studies, research has mainly focused on the economic and social impact of migrant workers. In addition, all scholars highlight on policy management of migrant workers that are causing the issue. Based on the literature review, this study recognizes the economic and social impacts, including government labor management policies that have not been achieved. For instance:

1.9.2 Economic Impacts

With respect to the literature review on the economic impact on native labor market by migrant workers, there are two factors involved. Firstly, there exists inequality in labor wage between migrant and native workers. Secondly, labor demand that caused the unemployment of the natives and the preference of employers for migrant workers over the natives to save cost (Warakiti & Chaiwong, 2018). According to Nevile and Kriesler (2016), the influx of unskilled labor from Burma to Thailand who are willing to accept lower wages can be argued on the part of the Burmese eliminating unskilled labor from

the Burmese labor market. If not checked, the consequences of the migration of the unskilled migrants could lead to an increase in Thailand's unemployment rate (Walmsley, Aguiar & Ahmed, 2017). There is little research conducted on the economic impact of Myanmar migrant workers on labor wage and labor demand in Thailand.

1.9.2.1 Labor Wage

Increase in migration into a country has both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, there is always an increase in employment; while on the negative side, there is always decrease in wages as a result of oversupply of labor. Meanwhile, over time, the increase in migration process will thus reduce the employment rate and, therefore, displaced the locals or natives. This phenomenon eventually leads to high unemployment rate (Chantavanich & Vungsiriphisal, 2012). Notwithstanding, there is no concrete evidence or empirical studies to support the notion that migrant workers hinder native workers employment opportunities and have negative effects on the wage scale.

It is widely believed in high income countries that accepting migrants makes it more difficult for the native population to succeed economically. Allowing refugees and migrants to work is one specific way in which native populations often perceive newcomers as inhibitors to their own economic success, as they believe that there is a negative impact on wages and employment rates. With 64% of international migrants residing in high-income countries and 32% residing in middle-income countries, it is especially important to understand whether or not these perceptions are in line with reality

According to Rhoden (2015), SMEs businesses in Thailand that hire Myanmar migrant workers rarely affect the cost of the firm because, from the result of the firm interviewees, most of the migrant workers likely earned a lower wage demand than the local workers. Moreover, this study strongly agreed that Myanmar migrant workers beat the local unskilled workers in terms of providing higher efficiency but bringing down pay which made them the best choice to satisfy the activity of the Thai work request (Rhoden, 2015).

In a study by Foged and Peri (2016), the scholars studied people from eight “refugee-countries” into Denmark who later became migrant workers in country. The study found robust evidence that migration decreased native low-skilled wages and made them more likely to move out of the municipality. Another economic impact of migrant labors was carried out in a survey by Pholphirul and Rukumnuaykit (2017) showing 426 assembling firms in Thailand that hired unskilled and cheap workers from neighboring countries, to be specific, from Myanmar. It was to determine whether domestic firms in Thailand can spare wage costs by hiring low-skilled. The obtainability of cheap migrant workers has been seen as an issue, plummeting the chance for the employ of Thai labors and reducing their incomes. Similarly, Ang, Van Dyne, and Begley (2003) said that when workers received low pay, the efficacy could be lower too.

Even though there are an over surplus of Myanmar migrant workers and who are paid low, several firms would still look for more profit before ethical issues. In relation to this, Win and Napisintuwong (2018) focused his study on firms using the service of illegal workforce, mainly from Myanmar, which was cheaper than the legally acceptable rate as they were undocumented migrants and, therefore, would not incur registration fee in

contrast to legal workers. In addition, the author found wages for the illegals were much lower. Likewise, Ang et al. (2003) stated that though it was cheaper to hire the illegal workers, the rise in productivity remains uncertain.

In comparison, firms highly value the use of Myanmar migrant workers over Thai native workers no matter what. This choice could also be associated with the abuse of workers' rights (Nauman, VanLandingham, Anglewicz, Patthavanit, and Punpuing, 2015). The Thai national pay of THB 300 (USD9.5) per day did not take into consideration the high price of living at PhiPhi Island. Moreover, the author stated that if these practices result in the violation of native workers' rights, these problems should be self-addressed through business practices and migration policies. Finally, Thongjen (2015) observed that most work occupied by migrant labors were dirty, unsafe and hard. Companies need not concern about being able to employ enough labor for such work. The reason for this was clear, hiring migrant workers was cheaper than hiring Thai workers (Thongjen, 2015).

1.9.2.2 Labor Demand

There is a financial quarrel pointed out the option of an opposing result on technical development by introducing low pay foreign labors. High requirement on low-priced foreign employment inclines to sluggish economic rearrangement and output development in the employment importing country (Foged & Peri, 2016). The reasons come from firms' behavior of relying on the obtainability of uneducated labors and they rapidly join this availability into their commercial plan. Investiture and other choices of firms are made on the evidence that labor cost would be maintained by the supply of migrated labors (Kohpaiboon, 2009).

According to Jolliffe (2015) Thai companies frequently revenue benefit of illegal workers by contribution salaries lesser than what they have to pay Thai labors, migration official and police corruption from the works owner, from brothel proprietors and, finally, from the migrant. Besides all these factors, most of the income of the Burmese migrant workers was spent on food, shelter, clothing and extortion prevention. Sanglaoid, Santipolvut, and Phuwanich (2014) provided six economic issue of ASEAN migrants labors in Thailand, mostly that of Myanmar and especially on the wage issue. The migrant workers who registered temporary are generally unskilled and received lower wage. This has an effect on the labor market, whereby disadvantaged workers earnings were reduced. Moreover, this study emphasized that the analysis of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of household income increased the number of both unskilled and skilled workers would likely benefit the economy due to high demand and supply that stimulated internal economy (Jitsuchon, 2014).

In addition, Pholphirul and Rukumnuaykit (2017) found that employers reduce the employment of native workers in the agricultural sector by 0.7% and their wages by 4.3%. This evidence could be attributed to the low skilled migrants who replaced native Thai employees within the sector. The authors advocate that migration policy ought to be firmer in relation to national economic and social development. However, this study did not mention the percentage/rate/figure of displaced native workers by Myanmar migrant workers. In another study, Pathumsri, Yodmalee, and Phaengsoi (2014) selected 150 Myanmar migrant workers in Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan and Samut Songkhram provinces, to learn what made them willing to move by both legal and illegal means to seek work in Thailand where better economic growth and lifestyle livelihood were

available. They observed that those Burmese workers responded to the needs of the economy which, indirectly, helped many entrepreneurs spent much less on labor.

Chalamwong, Meepien and Hongprayoon (2012) studied migrants from three neighboring countries including Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar in Thailand where policy discussion was focused on the advantages and disadvantages of low skilled migrant. The authors found obvious demand for low-skilled migrant labors from neighboring country to fill up the shortage of native workers in Thailand. In fact, Thai workers prefer to seek high income abroad for the same jobs. In addition, this article mentioned cases of frauds committed by migrants but did not provide the reactions of the native workers (Chalamwong et al., 2012).

1.9.3 Social Impacts

Nowadays, global investigation on migration is progressively recording the economic impact and expenses that migrant has on origin countries. In contrast, migration from less developed countries is continuously associated to social difficulties such as corruption, human trafficking, contagious deaths, etc. In general, unlawful migrants are always linked to several types of difficulties from public health issues to crimes (Luksamijarulkul, Suknongbung, Vatanasomboon, & Sujirarut, 2017). Hence, this study reviewed two keys factors of social impact on public health and crime prevention, which would incur additional cost to the government's budget where the migrant workers were concerned. For instance:

1.9.3.1 Public Health

With respect to migration and health, there were many outcomes between the two issues relating to, for example, communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as occupational risks that led to damage and disability. In a study by Khongthanachayopit and Laohasiriwong (2017), the pair argued that legal unskilled Myanmar migrant workers in the Northeast of Thailand worked in dangerous and dirty conditions that left them exposed to higher risks of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. In addition, the authors noted that the overall prevalence of access to health services among migrant workers was 14%, which was rather low when compared to the prevalence of illness at 37.2%. The evidence showed that these migrants were a burden to the Thai government. However, there was little information about this in the article.

In relation to this, Ford and Holmyong (2016) observed that the majority of the migrant workers from Myanmar was in danger of falling into poor health. In other words, they were a “vulnerable” population, susceptible to high-risk diseases such as HIV that affect their health care. In fact, diseases caused by migrant workers might be an important reason why some locals refused to work with them. This article, however, did not discuss the reaction of the locals. There are also literature available on the health issues related to migrant workers in the agriculture sector. Thetkathuek and Daniella (2016) revealed that migrant workers might be exposed to physical, chemical and biological health hazards, which might cause mental and physical illnesses. In addition, this study strongly agrees with the authors that among agricultural workers, farmers face a high risk of accidents.

In addition, Srivirojana, Punpuing, Robinson, Sciortino, and Vapattanawong (2014) carried out in-depth interviews to discover the cause of deaths of migrants from Myanmar in Ranong, Thailand. Their study revealed that the major causes of disease among Myanmar migrants were malaria, diarrhea, cholera, HIV/AIDS and STIs. Moreover, the data analysis of this article found case-fatality rates due to HIV/AIDS and cholera among Thais and migrants from Myanmar were 1.02 and 2.30 per 100 population and 7.25 and 15.00 per 100 population respectively. The result indicated clearly that infectious disease was prevalent among Myanmar migrant then Thai workers, causing a negative impact or social problem.

Meanwhile, an article published by Srivirojana et al. (2014) investigated 11 reasons why Myanmar women migrants become sex workers in Ranong. Migrants reported that one of the reasons was because the profession is highly paid. However, this brought about more problems, in particular, the risk of infected diseases which were very serious, including AIDS. Similarly, Ford and Holumyong (2016) revealed that Myanmar migrants had more HIV infection risk compared to non-migrant because most migrant workers were prone to having sexual intercourse without taking preventive measures. Moreover, the highlight of their article was the category of migrants who had multiple sexual partners and who were alcohol drinkers rather than non-alcohol drinkers. This could be due to migrants having the tendency to spend their money every day to buy alcohol after work. However, having sex under the influence of alcohol might not only cause HIV but also ~~may~~ bring about other social problems such as cause controversy as well (Tschirhart, Nosten, & Foster, 2017).

1.9.3.2 Crime

Human trafficking is a crime of extreme exploitation that affects men, women, and children globally. Migrant workers from Burma who come to Thailand may be trafficked into various occupations, including the sex industry, with trafficking in persons closely connected with broader migration, including refugee movements (Thetkathuek & Daniell, 2016). Pocock et al.(2018) studied 55 male survivors of trafficking for commercial fishing from Myanmar in Thailand. The author found migrants working 18-24 hours a day with limited to no rest, poor occupational safety, health and violence. Moreover, these findings were complemented by qualitative interview data collected on issue related to welfare in Thailand.

Graycar (2017) stated trafficking in persons from Myanmar to Thailand for the purpose of sexual exploitation includes mostly women and children. The author suggested that the causes and conditions of sex trafficking are not basically dissimilar to other forms of trafficking. In addition, most adult victims are supposed to move to Thailand willingly to follow work in the sex sector by the desire to escape poverty, earn higher wages and support their family with remittances. From this report it was obvious that Myanmar migrants were willing to enter Thailand illegally, thus, making trafficking difficult to solve (Graycar 2017).

Myanmar migrant workers have influenced on the natural environment. For example, there is a need for accommodation and this need for survival threatened Thailand's natural environment. This was experienced during the first influx of Burmese migrants. During this period, there were unchecked deforestation and harvesting of food by poorly

organized aid agencies resulting in environmental damages. Various studies have observed the deplorable living conditions of migrants, which might cause challenges in terms of safety, security, basic infrastructure and services. Kyi (2018) studied the case of 55 migrant workers, including 30 from Myanmar, whose landlords were not terribly strict regarding the necessary documents needed. A majority of the migrant workers were able to request a relative or friend who has documents to rent a room for them. The authors observed that there was no reported case of migrants who were unable to rent a room despite being undocumented.

Some studies have documented the risks that Myanmar migrant workers, particularly those with illegal status, had encountered while working in Thailand. For example, a study by Kusakabe and Pearson (2014) sited undocumented (illegal) Myanmar migrants living in and around Mae Sot District have experienced several forms of exploitation, including the lack of legal protections, and verbal, physical, and sexual abuse by employers and authorities. Moreover, the study documented that children of migrant workers might live with their families or stay in boarding homes or shelters, separated from members of the family by circumstances of displacement because the parents/adult members of the family worked in different locations in Thailand (Kusakabe & Pearson, 2014).

Luksamijarulkul et al. (2017) interviewed 240 migrants in Samut Sakhon Province—and most of them worked in the seafood manufacturing. In a similar study by Brown (2016) migrant workers had a low education level that could have impacted their household hygiene practices. This study also found migrant workers stayed in overcrowded, dirty conditions, which could have impacted the prevalence of diseases influenced by poor

sanitation. However, the author strongly pointed that overcrowded living conditions were related to increased risk for infectious disease transmission by respiratory route, such as tuberculosis, streptococcal and meningococcal infection.

In addition, the study of Sagnuankiat et al. (2016) noted that more than 70% of migrant workers were tenants in Thailand housing, whereas about only 20% of them were housed by employers while other few percentages accommodated in their relative's house. On an average, affordable rent for migrant workers start from THB 1,615 a month, with about five people residing in a unit. With respect to living conditions, it was observed that migrant workers were highly dissatisfied by the location, distance to garbage dumps and pest issues.

Lastly, Naing, Geater, and Pungrassami (2012) examined symptoms associated to environmental living conditions among migrant workers in Hat Yai District, Songkhla Province, Thailand that 19.3% of studied migrant workers had symptoms suggestive of pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, 20.8% had experience of pulmonary tuberculosis with a family member during the previous year, 43.8% had symptoms that could be linked to indoor air quality during the previous month, 20.8% had respiratory symptoms, 3.3% had skin problems, and 37.8% had non-specific symptoms. Nevertheless, these symptoms could have been due to poor household hygiene and poor ventilation in the migrant workers' area (Naing, Geater & Pungrassami, 2012).

1.9.4 Migrant Policy

The previous study on economic and social impacts on native labor market as mention above showed that the foundation of such impact is policy. Therefore, a policy is important in solving the issue although the government of the host country would attempt to eliminate illegal migrant workers (Khongthanachayopit & Laohasiriwong, 2017). The definition “migrant policy” in these studies were precisely focused on the overall economic and social problem policies. However, employment migration is a significant foundation of financial development for Thailand and has insinuations for its long-term attractiveness in the sub area and worldwide. It is, consequently, significant that the financial budgets and assistances experienced from employment migration be correctly achieved and stable so that all parties complicated in the procedure would advantage from it, and that the understated are not taken benefit of. It is obvious that Thailand still absences this equilibrium owing to its weak strategy application and absence of constancy in management the scheme intended to make such a equilibrium (Khongthanachayopit & Laohasiriwong, 2017).

According to Tuangratananon, Suphanchaimat, Julchoo, Sinam and Putthasri (2019), migrant labors are often related with social difficulties, human trafficking and national safety. This tendency of migrant and its effects will endure for some period except there is socio-economic and political development within neighboring countries and there is upgrading in comparative difficulties of those countries associated with Thailand and suitable worldwide labor migration strategy and organization in both Thailand and the countries of origin. Moreover, Curran et al. (2016) argued that the management of the illegal migrant workers problem from three nationalities (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia)

were not successful because there were still laborers. Illegal migrants working in the country, according to the cabinet resolution amounts to 1,248,864 people. There was a transnational human trafficking process, violations of migrant rights and human rights. In addition, the basic level of cross-border labor has reduced the chances of employment of Thai workers. As a result, the Thai industry did not develop production systems and create their own innovations (Curran et al., 2016).

Similarity, Suphanchaimat et al. (2017) exposed that the Thai government has a policy of allowing a large number of migrant workers from neighboring smuggling countries to live and work temporarily in the country and spread out over the country without tight supervision and true numbers. Nevertheless, the government has been trying to find ways to organize this system of migrant workers for the past 15 years. Likewise, Tangcharoensathien, Thwin and Patcharanarumol (2017) stated that the management of migrant was unsuccessful due to the lack of efficiency in law enforcement. There was a problem of non-transparency in the performance of government officials in some departments.

Recent studies have concluded that Thailand's policies for managing migrant workers have been reactive and lacked a long-term national strategy (Kohpaiboon, 2009). Edo (2015) argued that the relevant departments were not able to solve the problem of foreign labor due to budget constraints, lack of authority to make actual policy decisions. Moreover, the relevant agencies did not work together. There was no clear unit responsible for managing this issue. The system of migrant labor management could not be completely implemented, as there was incomplete information on migrant workers. In fact, there are

many related laws, falling under the responsibility of multiple agencies (Manoyos, Tangmunkongvorakul, Srithanaviboonchai, Yangyuenkul & Grimes, 2016).

Yamada (2012) explained that the measures did not work well because of their complicated and costly procedure. The registration was strongly dependent on the employer, but the benefits of registration were unclear and the sanctions for violation were too low. Lastly, Kampan and Tanielian, 2017 stated that ASEAN has not yet established a regional migrant and border-control mechanism like the EU's Schengen Agreement. Instead, the member states manage migrant workers by implementing unilateral national migrant-receiving policies and laws. The general problem for ASEAN was the absence of a legal or conventional framework that stipulates the relationship between ASEAN documents (declarations and conventions) and domestic laws (Kohpaiboon, 2009).

1.10 Research Gap

The existing studies discussed many factors that encouraged Myanmar migrant workers migration into Thailand. However, at this stage, it is important to investigate the economic impacts of this migration process into Thailand by Myanmar migrants. With this regard, there are fewer to no study focusing about the impacts on local labor market. This research intended to fill this gap. Moreover, this study was conducted in the Trang province, where no prior research was conducted.

1.11 Theoretical Framework

Theoretically, all phenomena can be explained and analyzed for clarity and understanding. This research study adopted one underpinning theory in order to better understand the

phenomenon of the movement migrant worker namely the Push-Pull and Neoclassic theories. Those theories are operationalized in this work because of their explicit analysis among Myanmar migrant workers in countries such as Thailand.

1.11.1 Push-Pull theory

Theories of migrants are necessary in order to know population movements from wider economic contexts. Ravenstein (1889) is considered the earliest migration theorist. Ravenstein, an English geographer, used census data from England and Wales to develop his “Laws of Migration” in 1889. He concluded that migration was ruled by a “push-pull” process, which could be explained as unfavorable conditions, for example, oppressive laws, political unrest and high unemployment that “push” people out, and favorable conditions in an external location that “pull” them in. Ravenstein’s laws specified that the primary cause for migration was higher external economic opportunities which the quantity of migrant increases (Krishnakumar & Indumathi, 2014).

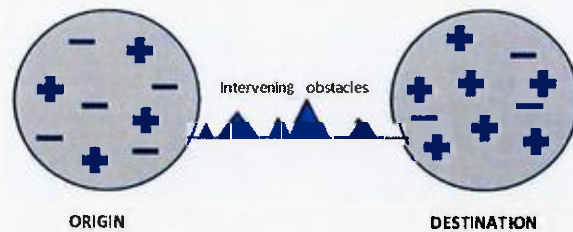
Moreover, many theorists have followed Ravenstein’s footsteps and, therefore, the dominant theories in contemporary scholarship are more or less variations of his conclusions such as Lee (1966), who reformulated Ravenstein’s theory to give more emphasis on the internal (or push) factors. He explained that the movement from the country of origin to the country of destination were influenced by families, misinformation, lack of capital, travel cost, illiteracy, language and national policy. In addition, other intervening obstacle include the migrant process.

Lee argued that binding variables such as physical distance and political barriers might forestall migrant. However, he observed that the migrant process is selective as a result of age difference, gender, power and social class. These elements also have an impact on how people react to the push-pull factors, and these conditions their ability to overcome intervening obstacles. Moreover, personal factors like a person's educational background, the contact information of the host in the locality, district or province and family ties might assist or impede migration.

Lee (1966) (see Figure 1.2 below) used the push and pull factors to recommend an easy general schema for learning about migrant. These factors, as he summarized them, were related to the country of origin's "push factors", the country of destination's "pull factors" with (-) negative and (+) positive factors and intervening obstacles. According to Lee (1966), there were countless factors which drove people to move to an area. However, it was uncertain whether they would be accepted or rejected when they arrived at the country of destination.

The set of favorable and unfavorable factors are totally different for each migrant or potential migrant. So, the typical feature of Lee's scheme was that it sought the reason of migratory movements within the decision-making performance of people being unprotected to incentives persuading them to migrate. With the stress on economic and social, the decision to migrate due to those factors helped to direct the researcher's consideration to low-skilled migrant workers' impact on local workers response (Thet, 2014).

Figure 1.2: Lee's Push and Pull Theory



Source: Lee (1966)

The migration of transnational populations has both different pulling and pushing factors. The factors that pull the population to travel to another country are most likely due to the financial differences of each country, such as countries with higher financial growth and people have higher incomes. There is often a tendency to pull populations from the country of origin at the level of development than to find work. A country that has rich resources, low production costs and a policy to promote foreign investment would attract foreigners to invest in the country. In addition, it would bring in migrant labor, especially low-skilled labor from their home countries, to manage the business or do business, among others (Van Hear, Bakewell, & Long, 2018).

Labor market factors and the imbalance between demand and labor supply are also factors that cause labor migration. If any country causes excess demand for labor in a particular branch regardless of whether the domestic laborers do not want to work in that field or because the branch is expanding rapidly, the demand is higher than the supply. As a result, labor will expand and push higher wages to pull migrant workers. Moreover, the push-pull factors are related to the economic factors of the migrant's country of origin which generally has a low level of development, low-income population and poor quality of life. In addition, the population might be driven to move to a country that could improve their

quality of life or to escape the political problems of their country which was causing the population to become insecure and felt unsafe. Therefore, the people would seek a better living image (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016).

1.11.2 Neoclassical Theory

Neoclassical economics is distinctively the most informative concept that speaks about migration which occurred in the 1960s. Massey et al. (1993) defined two methods of migrant within the outline of economics. Migrant remains an important factor responsible for the uneven supply of labor and capital which may be clarified at the nationwide level (macroeconomic guidelines) or at the individual level (microeconomic guidelines). According to the first guidelines, worldwide migration depends on the alteration in salaries and employment opportunities in the area or the country's macroeconomic level (Arango, 2017).

Migration is seen as a result of the inequality that exists in the salary and labor marketplaces, especially among countries. Several countries have a shortage of good employees in the market when the economy was robust. Labor is somewhat lacking in reference to capital and the inequity within the supply of producing countries with surplus labor and low incomes. Reasonable people were able to move abroad to seek employment and, subsequently, gain high wages at the international level. The transfer of employees to countries with labor shortages should accordingly be linked to the economic factors in order to eliminate wage fluctuations between countries. When the international variations disappear, there would eventually be no motivation for migration (Palát, 2017).

The additional approach is of interest to neoclassical economics regarding migrant from the point of view of microeconomics. The microeconomic approach emphasizes the role of rational people with reasoning. The migrants would weight their choices and consider the appropriateness of the wages and the potential margins available before deciding on migrating. Migrant is once again seen as the factor emerging from the lack of equality that exists in the labor market in completely dissimilar countries. Migrants would analyze the predictable income during a clear or expected period in the destination country. As for the predictable returns and expenses, migration could be seen as an investment strategy (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016).

In relation to this Massey et al. (1993), observed that migrants were inclined to both improve their investment in human capital (improved educational and occupation chances within the destination country) and raise a possible come back on its investment. Initially, this type of migrant investment would carry higher expenditures, and predictive advantages would begin to appear only on a long-term, step-by-step basis. Doubtless, the present worth of expected advantages from migrant surpassed the costs related to migrant, thus, prompting the individuals to migrate. The specific costs of migrant did not simply embrace direct money prices. It required to take into consideration social and psychological injuries and lots of different connected factors (Nawyn, 2016). The present worth of the advantages ensuing from migrant may be calculated by utilizing the World Wide Web for migrant associated degreed job amendments to discover predictable range of centuries-paid jobs overseas for specific occupation.

For this worth, a potential migrant need to compute the calculable prices related to out-migration (direct and indirect prices). It is understandable that the greater the distinction in usefulness within a destination country and, therefore, the country of origin, the higher would be the advantages of migrant. The lengthier the operating amount consumed overseas, the upper the predictable utility. Conversely, the higher the costs related to moving abroad, the smaller the payoff from migrant (Arango, 2017). Therefore, wages are a driving issue. Likewise, the demand for domestic labor will act as a pull matter. In support of this theory, people would continue to migrate from poor countries with lower salaries to wealthier countries with developed incomes until such a time when the salary fluctuations vanish, thus, stopping the flow of migration between those countries. Nevertheless, this is not a logical conclusion and the flow of migrant could continue for other reasons (Gurieva & Dzhioev, 2015).

There is no power to clarify the increasing or declining movements of poor nations or, on the other hand, among industrialized nations. The convergence of international wage levels should not result in fewer migration. Additional disadvantage that is not considered during this period is market segmentation, regardless of how each group tends to develop. Therefore, there are quality limitations between them. Some authors emphasized that not only reduce wages but the differences in socioeconomic inequality were still factors that promote migration (O'Reilly, 2015).

1.12 Operational Definitions

1.12.1 Migrants

Migrants are seen as people who change their old residence to live in a new area that is far from their original residence or abroad for a period of time to seek a better life and better opportunities. According to the International Organization for Migration (hereafter, IMO) (2016), a migrant is “any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/ her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is” (Ibarra & Carlos, 2015).

1.12.2 Migrant Workers

For the purpose of this research, this researcher adopts the definition provided by Marino, Roosblad and Penninx (2017). They defined migrant workers as natural persons who are not Thai nationals, hired to work and receive compensation in the country.

1.12.3 Unskilled Migrant Workers

Unskilled workers are employees who do not use reason or cognitive ability in their work. These people are often found in positions related to labor, such as farm workers. Unskilled work does not require formal education and can be carried out by most people. Due to the nature of their jobs, they do not require any education or training at high levels. Hence, unskilled workers earn less than average compared to other workers (Garip, 2014).

1.12.4 Legal Migrants

A legal migrant is one who enter a country via the authorized passage (that is, across boarder) pass through inspecting officers and declared the reasons why he/she is entering such country. More recent definition of legal migrant is one who has not overstayed the stipulated time allowed by the country's law nor do anything that can nullify the permission granted to reside in such country. Nevertheless, scholars argue there is no legal definitions of migrants. Most experts agree that international migrants are the ones who change their habitat irrespective of the reasons for their migrant or legal status. In general, the difference between a short-term or a temporary move is a movement that lasts between three and 12 months and a long-term or permanent migration referring to a change of country of residence for one or more years (Hewison, 2014).

1.12.5 Illegal Migrants

According to Nevile and Kriesler (2016), irregular migrants (or undocumented/illegal migrants) referred to migrant or migrants who migrate to a country without proper documentation and permit to do so.

1.12.6 Labor Market

The labor market is the job market. It refers to the demand and supply of labor that employees provide, and employers need. It is an important component of any economy and is finely linked to the capital markets, products and services (Del Carpio, Messina, & Sanz-de-Galdeano, 2019).

1.12.7 Economic Impact

Forlani, Lodigiani and Mendolicchio (2015) described economic impact simply as the effect on commerce, employment, or income produced by a decision, event, or policy.

1.12.8 Wage Labor

Brees (2010) looked at labor wage as the socioeconomic relationship between a worker and an employer, where the worker sells their labor power under a formal or informal employment contract. These transactions usually occur in a labor market where wages or salaries are market-determined.

1.12.9 Labor Demand

Labor market factors drive the supply and demand for labor. Those seeking employment will supply their labor in exchange for wages. Businesses demanding labor from workers will pay for their time and skills (Brees, 2010).

1.12.10 Social Impacts

The impact of migrant workers negatively affects the destination country (Chantavanich & Jayagupta, 2010).

1.12.11 Public Health

The health of the population as a whole, especially as the subject of government regulation and support (Eberle & Holliday, 2011).

1.12.12 Crime

An illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government (Jönsson, 2014).

1.12.13 Migrant Policy

A government's statements of what it intends to do or not do (including laws, regulations, decisions or orders) in regard to the selection, admission, settlement and deportation of foreign citizens residing in the country (Jitsuchon, 2014).

1.12.14 Burma and Burmese

Burma is a country in Southeast Asia, whose official name is Myanmar. In addition, a Burmese refers to a person from Myanmar (Wilkins, 2017).

1.13 Chapterisation

The whole research work is written into seven chapters. The seven chapters of the research will comprise the introduction, the historical background, the economic impacts, the social impact and migrant policy, followed with the research findings and conclusion.

Chapter one provides a general introduction, the background of the study, the problem statement, the research questions, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope of the study, research method, literature review, research gap, as well as the theoretical and conceptual framework. The section on chapterisation concludes the chapter.

Chapter two discusses the historical background of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. This chapter investigates the situation in Myanmar that makes its nationals move-abroad. In addition, it explores the reason of why Thailand is a first destination country among the Myanmar nationals. In so doing, this chapter also examines the native labor market.

Meanwhile **chapter three** examines the economic impacts arising from the involvement of Myanmar migrant workers on Thai economy, focusing on two factors such as labor wage and labor demand. This chapter looks at the details of each factors that impacts on Thai labor market.

Chapter four focuses on the social impacts resulting from the presence of Myanmar migrant workers. It discusses the public health and criminality that affect the labor market in Thailand.

Chapter five examines the lack of migrant policy on economic and social problem. Overall, this chapter elaborates the reasons why Thailand still faces illegal Myanmar migrant workers issues today.

Chapter six focusses the discussions on the findings. Overall, this chapter provides the answers to the respective research questions.

Chapter seven concludes the discussion of the issues brought forth in this study, providing some insights and recommendation as seen appropriate.

CHAPTER TWO

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MYANMAR MIGRANTS IN THAILAND

2.1 Introduction

Thai-Burma relations have reached an important stage. There has never been a Thai policymaker throwing obstacles at such bilateral relations, especially in the move for political improvements in Thailand in 1997. Most Thai-Burmese relations are due to friendly relations. For example, the leaders of the militaries from both countries meet frequently then resolve battles in an ad-hoc foundation and through gentleman contracts. That was the reasons why some issues may be established rapidly, and alternative problems are resolved. It should be noted that many problems arising from political interest have haunted leaders of both countries. Previously, strong military relations were ignored and had destroyed alternative main rule makers along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Security Council, the Ministry of Interior and other relevant administrations. However, through the improvement, the Ministry of Foreign was seen as the leader in the creation and operation compliance with Myanmar policies (Chongkittavorn, 2001).

The public, worldwide, wished to see Thailand adhere to State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Similarly, in the conflicts in Cambodia between 1978-1993, Thailand was talented to offer control throughout the 13-year battle and remained a major influence in ASEAN's policy and unity. Unhappily, throughout the important days of relationship

among Myanmar and ASEAN between 1995 and 1997, when important ASEAN selections were created, Thailand also had problems with internal political instability. Nevertheless, political modifications occurred since the 1997.

Moreover, once Thaksin Shinawatra's administration took control in early 2001, he twisted the policy of Burma. During the same period, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, who was then the Minister of Defense, received strong support from his coalition partners, following the policy of stopping the growing economic relations and, in particular, even receiving more help in narcotics suppression. The long-term tendency of further drug suppression and planned boundary remains uncertain. With a mainstream in the household, the Taksin administration was likely to carry on with the rule that encouraged cross-border employment, irrespective of the domestic political situation.

2.2 Civil War in Myanmar

Myanmar is a nation situated in South-East Asia; its property mass is practically similar to that of Texas. The nation's fringes are for all intents and purposes the same since the British colonized it in 1886. Myanmar's position is deliberately significant as it borders the two South Asian countries of Bangladesh and India on its west side as well as China on its North-East. The nation is also linked to Laos to the east and shares the entirety of its Southeast border. In addition, Myanmar is culturally varied which can be evaluated from the diversity of languages spoken there. The Burmese is the dominant ethnic group in the country, with less than 65% of the population. Moreover, the Burmese inhabit the core of the country while more than one hundred and thirty ethnic groups live in its massive "boundary" (Chantavanich & Kamonpetch, 2017).

In what follows, this study details the evolution of the civil war with a specific concentration on the period between 1989 and 2015 as it falls in the time frame of interest for the experiential analysis. Myanmar obtained freedom from the British in 1948. In the immediate result, the country experienced all forms of intergroup ferocity. In fact, the Communist Party of Burma (mostly made up of ethnic Burma) protested after independence while the first ethnic group to rebel against the central government were the Karen in 1949. Moreover, the country was also attacked by the leftovers of Yunnan's Kuomintang in 1950. The constant threats and the multiplicity of internal and external enemies caused the Tatmadaw's power to grow up to the point where the army became the de facto powerhouse, substituting the elected government. In 1962, General Ne Win, the highest - ranking army official, seized power and ruled the country through a one-party state until 1988.

After the coup, the Tatmadaw entirely disenfranchised the non-Burma ethnic groups, causing the sprawling of ethnic-armed groups. Certainly, various border areas were (and in many cases still are) under control of ethnic armed groups with the Tatmadaw unable to access them. In areas where Burma do not represent the ethnic mainstream, the Tatmadaw controls the larger cities and main roads. Ideology was another notable cause of armed groups formation. Since the 1970s, two main alliances opposed the Tatmadaw regime: The Communist Party of Burma (CPB) and the National Democratic Front (NDF) (Dittmer, 2010).

The CPB was financially backed by China. At the height of its power, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the CPB controlled the whole border between Myanmar and China.

While Communist ideology was the glue that kept together this ethnically diverse alliance, most battalions were organized along ethnic lines. Armed groups belonging to the NDF were also organized along ethnic lines and fought for federal representation (i.e. not to secede from Myanmar). Occasionally, the same ethnic group had several armed groups as a legacy of a feudal system which existed during the British rule. For example, armed groups' formation in Shan state, the region bordering Thailand, Laos, and China started along feudal lines as feudal lords received administrative autonomy over territories from the British colonial administration.

Armed groups in both blocs were politically inspired and had an advantage due to the support of the people within their ethnic homeland. Indeed, taxation of villagers belonging to the same ethnic groups established a common source of funding for all ethnic armed groups. As a result, armed groups move within their ethnic limits, and it was improbable to observe them in territories far from their ethnic homelands. To legitimate support from the villagers, rebel groups act as facilitator of public goods such as education, justice and infrequently health care (Jolliffe, 2015).

The Myanmar army has always perceived armed groups as hostile to the country's unity. They described an account of how the Tatmadaw perceived the ethnic armed groups: "The map of Myanmar was separated into a huge chessboard and shaded in three colors: black for totally insurgent-controlled areas; brown for areas both sides disputed; and white for areas free of rebels" (Jolliffe, 2015). The idea was that each insurgent colored area would be cleared one by one, till the entire map of Myanmar became white. For the black areas and brown guerrilla zones, a standard set of strategies was developed which, after a little

refinement, had remained unchanged till today. Since the nineties, the Tatmadaw attacked dissimilar ethnic groups.

Namely, these armed groups were attacked through “scorched earth campaigns” against the population that supported them. Indeed, the Tatmadaw applied its famed “four cuts strategy” that geared toward removing armed groups’ support by the population and their allies. Many historical facts ensured that the Tatmadaw knew about the existence of alliances and enmities between ethnic armed groups. The Tatmadaw formed its decision to attack groups based on how influential they were in mobilizing its allies outside the battleground. For example, in the mid-eighties, some members of the NDF launched joint operations in conjunction with the CPB against the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw was concerned by the new alliance and launched a huge offensive against two of its prominent members.

Other authors stressed the importance of alliances and enmities, discussing the Tatmadaw’s decision to attack the varied armed groups within the country. For example, Oo and Min (2007) debated what led the Burmese army to attack the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) through a scorched earth campaign within the nineties, “despite the RCSS request for ceasefire talks, the Myanmar Army has always refused them seeing how dangerous the alliance between the RCSS, Shan State National Army (SSNA) and Shan state Progress Party (SSPP).” Likewise, with the Shan United Army because as the “head” of an alliance between many totally different groups, it had become too dangerous for the Tatmadaw to tolerate at the start of the nineties.

Alliances and enmities among armed groups were not solely supported on military and political issues, however, on economic grounds. Armed groups whose ethnic homelands are appropriate for opium farming however far away from the border with neighboring countries ought to sell their harvest to a group particular in trading opium abroad. In another example, Wallenstein and Sollenberg (1997) discussed how a meeting between three armed groups in Kachin state to settle disputes on the logging franchises across their limits triggered a response from the Tatmadaw against the groups with the major network of alliances among the ones involved.

In 1988 and 1989, two events major or incidents that were not related to each other were recorded in the history of Myanmar. First, in March 1988, following the deteriorating economic situations in the country, students and civilians in the main urban centers protested against the military, asking for political improvements. Later, in a fierce crackdown, a coup orchestrated by army officials forced General Ne Win to hand them the power so that the Tatmadaw retained the power. Second, in 1989, ethnic battalions within the CPB rebelled against the CPB politburo and organized themselves into independent ethnic militias. The rebellions took the Myanmar military as well as its allies by surprise. The CPB and the Tatmadaw had been facing each other on the battleground until 1988 and the CPB still had controlled of most of the border with China when the rebellions happened. The network of armed groups in the country, as well as their alliances and enmities relations were affected by this turn of event (Cheesman & Farrelly, 2016).

However, in recent years the country adopted a new constitution and had two parliamentary elections in 2011 and 2015. The Myanmar military has 25% of the seats

reserved in the parliament to veto any constitutional reform by the civilian government. Despite the transition, hostility between ethnic armed groups and the Tatmadaw has continued.

2.3 Thai - Myanmar Relations

To understand the character and complication of Thai-Burma relationship is to comprehend the alteration of their friendly relationship over the past 431 years. Thais have a spread of insights concerning Myanmar, from ancient concept of a devilish country, to a additional current sentimental view of the “respectable ancient Burma”. Burma’s views as an evil country were outlined turn to the destruction of Ayutthaya in 1569. The Burma army attacked Ayutthaya and engaged it for 34 years earlier King Nareasuan Siam gained the conclusive fight in Nong Sharai and seized the wealth from Myanmar. However, once more in 1767, the King of Burma, Bayinnung, robbed Ayutthaya. Later, after a long battle, the urban fell despondently to Myanmar. There was this overthrow and the great injury that the victorious Myanmar did to the Thais that were inscribed into their memories since then.

Indeed, each of the valuable items in Ayutthaya was burned down by the Myanmar Army. Although Thai citizen thought of Nareasuan’s brave conquest, they had not overlooked the actions then vandalism of the Myanmar attackers and the designation of King Bayinnuang remained the foundation of the abhorrence. Therefore, in 1996, when a statute of King Bayinnuang was erected in Ayutthaya, it drew flak from several quarters as it was like pouring salt to the Thais wounds. For years it has been ingrained in the Thai students that their number one enemy was Burma. This past memory strengthened the negative

impact of Thai-Burma relations (Chachavalpongpun, 2010). Till the reduction of Ayutthaya in 1767, the political and knowledgeable heads of Siam were aware of the hostility of Burma and its consequences to Siam and had expressed great concern in the investigation and creating conditions as in past battles with ~~the~~ its neighbors. In spite of this view of Burma as a devilish country, the two states achieved to co-exist deprived of main wars earlier Britain occupied Myanmar in 1826 (Haacke, 2008).

Although Thailand remained combining its statehood amid 1850 and 1970, the Burmese and their leaders, observed Myanmar as an emblem of disappointment for being powerless to battle the militaries of occupation. They placed the responsibility on the Burma leads. Protuberant historian Somdat Krompraya Damrung used this theme to clarify Myanmar in his literatures. “Thieu Mung Phama“ or “Travelling inside Myanmar“. He acclaimed the aptitude of the Thai rulers over the Burmese as they could defend the country from the West’s regulator. He observed the Burmese leads as immoral and self-seeking, without any management role. In most of his work associated to Myanmar, he used this theme to highlight the variations amid Thailand and Burma. Some of these opinions were taken from Western writers as James Scott.

Additional Thai writers, such as Lung Vichitvatakan and Kukit Phamod, likewise amused this undesirable insight in their literatures concerning Myanmar. Such stereotyping of Myanmar has also been continued complete general TV period theatres that recycle typescripts and writings that disparage Burmese leads. Throughout World War II, the Thai administration used patriotism as a theme and info to legitimize the government and accommodation policy with Japan before the Second World War. Luang Wichitwattana

inscribed nine novels associated to Thai-Myanmar antiquity. The story developed prevalent amongst Thai book lovers and became a television drama. The administration at that time had completely reinforced this concept. It did not matter that what the Thai citizen see clearly in Myanmar was the truth or purely literature (Pongsawat, 2007). After Burma achieved its freedom, it adopted a neutral status as Thailand followed the US policies throughout the Cold War and the US started interment campaigns around the world. Currently, there is regular communication along the Thai-Myanmar boundary, letting people from both countries to know from each other. Nevertheless, the fixed rules that have been ingrained through literature and television dramas have not abated.

It was discovered that there were more attitudes among business collections that view Myanmar as a new marketplace that the business sector could tap in. This opinion was predominant throughout the Chatchai Choonhawan administration (1988-1991). The Chayachai government set available to facilitate the SPDC in argument for a concession request to utilize natural incomes such as classification, fishery and jewels. These manufacturers, located in Bangkok and other provinces, were able to significantly affect the cycle of Thai-Burmese relations to the border trade status. They had continued to pressure the management to exposed additional enduring border to promote boundary trade regardless of additional issues.

Later 1995, at least half a dozen documentary theatres had been produced, showing the Thai-Myanmar war at several times. Famous people remained portrayed in "Pasisuriyuthai", "Nine Wars", "Soldier of King Taksin" and "Mr Khanumtum". The most stimulating tendency was that these series are remakes from earlier creations. These

creations attempted to support the knowledge that the relationship between Thailand and Burma was related to war. It was an opportunity, a lesson, for Thai people to learn from history despite the fact that the conflict of 1767 stayed just unique of the two major fights in their 400-year war past (Pongsawat, 2007).

Today, the awareness of Myanmar in Thailand has been redesigned, not just amongst noncombatants only nonetheless amongst those Thais who still consider Myanmar as an opponent. Nevertheless, they have been following the condition in the country besides the condition of the Burmese. The Thais admired the bravery of Daw Aug Sand Su Kyi, the chief of the National League for Democracy opposition, as a result of the unequal treatment that she received from the military government, especially amongst Thai females. She positions high amongst prevalent political statistics in Thailand, including Singapore's senior minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The Thais believed that their country is additional advanced than Myanmar. The insecurity of the Myanmar has reduced to a certain extent nowadays. Thailand has seen economic growth and high level of democracy with increasing civilian-military rule and political reform in 2017. Since 1997, Thais feel that Thailand is a independent country that compliments human rights as well as western society. In dissimilarity, they saw Myanmar as still being ruled by armed dictatorship and that political persecution still existed. Therefore, the Thais were proud of their current condition (Than, 2002).

Later years of uncooperative cooperation amid the Thai military and the Myanmar army, the Thai military refused to endure an old, distinctive relationship with rewards or

inducements from Burma's armed leads. It is no clandestine that the Thai armed has used the franchise, particularly in the profitable classification and jeweler businesses in argument for safety participation. It is communal in the historical that safety militaries along the Thai-Myanmar boundary would not comply with policies that the central government attached importance to.

2.4 Burmese Migration to Thailand

According to a Thai-based labor organization, around 10% of Burma's populace of about 55 million have migrated, either to seek refuge or to get a living overseas, through nearby 2 million of these presently living in Thailand alone (Wongboonsin, 2006). Moreover, ethnic minorities living in the boundary areas have often been involuntary to escape several procedures of harassment. Over 100,000 refugees belonging to several Burmese ethnic groups today are housed in refugee camps in Thailand, and those who do not qualify as migrants escaping armed battle frequently develop unlawful migrant labors. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee approximations that there are around 10,000 Rohingas and various thousands of Chins living in Malaysia. About 8000 - 10,000 Burmese migrants are employed in Japan.

Several issues explanation for the large number of Burmese migrating to Thailand. Initial, the two countries portion a long boundary of about 2500 km, much of which is available only by foot. Unlawful migrants of Myanmar citizen (Mon and Karen living along the Thai-Myanmar boundary) has been happening since 1985, when Burma's Ne Win administration conflicted with ethnic minority militaries. It has been projected that amid

1984 and 1988 additional than 300,000 Mon and Karen escaped to Thailand (Tongkaemkaew & Chambon, 2018).

Subsequently the 1988 rebellion in Myanmar, economic improvements seemed to have caused in the formation of several job chances, mainly in the greater cities. Though, the increase amount, as designated by the customer charge index, be around from 22% to 33% yearly from 1992 to 1995. The customer charge index augmented from 100 in 1986 to 369.09 in 1992 - 1993 then to 882.81 in 1996 - 1997 (Mon, 2010). The authorized argument rate was continuous at around Kyat (K) six per dollar, while the marketplace exchange rate was around K25 in the 1980s, and around K100 in the middle - 1990s, which radically augmented to around K1000 in 2003 (Tongkaemkaew & Chambon, 2018). The increasing inflation amount importantly diminished the insignificant salaries of political servants. Though the payment of workers in the private sector was much higher than that salaried to public sector workers, salaries unsuccessful to keep up with the amount of inflation. Therefore, several Burmese were involuntary to leave the country in search of better waged employment.

In the result of the 1988 rebellion, both lawful and 'unlawful migration augmented decidedly, and Burma migrants came to comprise skilled experts and specialists, as well as unskilled employees. The occurrence of involuntary work, political unpredictability and systemic human rights defilements therefore caused in thousands of people, particularly from the rural boundary areas, escaping to neighboring countries, mainly Thailand. While, in neighboring Thailand, the Thai economy produced dramatically amid 1980 and 1995, and since 1985 total spreads had also grownup by a regular of 10% yearly.

In terms of the worth of industrial spreads, the yearly development amount was a extraordinary 25% in the early 1990s. These growths persuaded actual huge flows of skilled and unskilled work from further countries and from rural Thailand. In 2003 the per capita gross national product of Thailand was US\$ 2238, which was six times advanced than the US\$ 351 noted in Myanmar in the similar year (Tongkaemkaew & Chambon, 2018).

This actual marked difference in the amount of economic development among Thailand and Myanmar went a long way towards explanation the phenomenon of Burmese migration. Additionally, the sharp deflation of the Burmese exchange in contrast with the Thai exchange also nurtured out-migration. All these issues caused in an actual considerable unlawful influx of Burmese citizens into Thailand and, as already noted, in important allowed migration as well (Brees, 2010).

2.5 Myanmar Migrant Workers at Trang Province

The province has a total workforce of about 50,000. Of these, about 40,000 Thai workers are employed, the rest around 10,000 migrant workers. Most of them Burmese or about 70%, while the remainder are Cambodian and Lao about 30%, working in various industrial sectors, and the agricultural sector especially, rubber tapping, rubber wood processing, fisheries and construction (Yasin & Ngahb (2015).

Table 2.1: The number of Myanmar immigration in Trang province on March 2018

Unit: Person

Status	Men	Women	Total
NV	4,974	2,474	7,448
MOU	1,473	1,184	2,657
Tourist	-	-	-
Total			10,105

Source: Tongkaemkaew and Chambon (2018)

However, the number of foreign workers who migrated to Thailand to work were one in five of the total number of workers in Trang province. The number was insufficient to meet the employers' needs. The labor force was submitted to the authorities throughout especially the rubber sector in the rubber wood industry. There were expected to be more shortage including in the fishing sector. The problem beset on all sides as there was not enough labor power to meet the industry's request for many years.

There are many reasons for the shortage of labor following the current economic situation in Trang Province. The demand for or a reduction of migrant workers depend on the situation at hand. In addition, the relevant parties should be prepared to deal with foreign crisis that could spread to Thailand. While migrant workers especially the Isan (Northeast) people are previously popular in the south, their numbers are likely to decline. This is because at this time, the Northeast can grow rubber as well as southern. The economy in the area is getting better. The Isan people have more work to do. They do not have to travel to work in the south as before. There were also cases of some Isan people turning to work abroad elsewhere. This is because the income is better than coming to work in the

south of Thailand. Therefore, the main labor force used in the business sector in Trang province was reduced. Some entrepreneurs are turning to foreign workers to work.

However, migrant workers are likely to decline, especially the Burmese, who are waiting to see the development in their country—when the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi stepped into the political arena to see and the real impact on Trang. However, if there are any, it could probably be in the next five years. Meanwhile, the numbers of Cambodian and Laotian workers, who also worked in the rubber plantations with the Trangs, have reached the limit because there were not many people in the population of the respective countries. The former came to work in Trang province to gain knowledge in the technology and take back the experience with them to their country in the future (Tongkaemkaew & Chambon, 2018). Moreover, in the province of Trang, there are fewer young workers because of the unpopularity of bringing up a child. As a result, there was shortage of labor in the agricultural and fisheries sectors.

2.6 Chapter Summary

The question that often rises is, what is Thailand's "migrant workers policy". Theoretically, policy is a combination of the Thai law concerning migrants and the ways in which Thai establishments apply the law. Policy highlights the patterns in the Thai government's attitude towards migrant, the reasons underlying the laws, and law enforcement. If there is anything that establishes an overall Thai policy on immigration, the goal seems to focus less on avoiding migration than on controlling the movements of migrant. So far, the efforts to control migrant into Thailand have had little lasting achievement.

Today, migrant labor is a main part of the Thai labor force, well-entrenched, so that it remains a key reserve in the economy for many years. Migrant into Thailand is a lasting and significant part of the Thai economic scheme. As the difference in economic development in the region has grown with ASEAN's admission of Burma and Laos, the migrant-worker problem begs regional, not national resolutions. ASEAN would do well to include the long-neglected social measurement of migrant workers on its agenda. The problem with the Burmese refugees is enormous, yet many feel the Thai government's achievement with the Lao refugees as somehow encouraging a similar outcome along the country's western border.

However, several studies claimed that registered migrant workers were at a disadvantaged or deprived of certain rights because the labor laws of Thailand did not provide full protection. Although obtaining a NV would change an abnormal status to formal, many Burmese migrant workers were unable to access the NV process due to many factors. Hence, these migrants were expelled to their home countries because they were left in Thailand due to excessive economic and political turmoil along with the high danger of being attacked at the immigration checkpoint. Thai officials were often transferred during the repatriation process.

The UN special rapporteur Bustamante called on the Thai government to reassess its plans for deportation, saying that massive evictions would result in unprecedented human suffering and violate obligations. This was because there might be people who would essentially need international protection and could not return to their country of origin for fear of repercussions (Tuangratananon et al., 2019). The efficiency of Thailand's strict

controls on the issue of unusual migrant is extremely uncertain, while the decision of the cabinet to deport most migrants who are unable to apply for an NV. In addition, over the years there have been several cases of deportees returning to Thailand with the help of agents and brokers, where migrants were at risk of being exploited by agents during the journey to find protection and economic survival strategy.

In addition, the Thai economy still needs a lot of cheap migrant workers. The unusual migrant trend will continue to challenge the proliferation of existing migrants who want to relocate to Thailand. The limited barriers between high demand and supply are creating a profitable market for agents and brokers, whom most Burmese migrant workers tend to approach. Ultimately, migrant policies should aim to maximize benefits for migrant labors and the Thai economy while at the same time guaranteeing the rights of migrant labors, both registered and unregistered. For example, in the case of the return process by enforcing the policy needs of the present condition and the subtleties of labor (Suttawet & Bamber, 2018).

CHAPTER THREE

ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON NATIVE LABOR MARKET

3.1 Introduction

Economics deals with the concept of unlimited needs, resources shortage and choices. In a world of less product and fewer currency than anticipated, finances examine how population assign their time among labor and vacation, so that they will receive money to purchase desired goods and facilities though liking vacation period simultaneously. The neoclassic philosophy undertakes that a balanced person surveys the choices accessible to him to take full advantage of their usefulness or gratification. While Myanmar migrant workers in Trang province desire more work and higher salaries, other native workers go for less freedom and lower salaries. Moreover, economists have questioned the reason why people decide to migrate to find advanced income across a country's borders (Cooray, 2012).

Migrant is an optional option. However, "migration is one of the most profitable investments available to the poor around the world" when seeking better income (Clemens & Pritchett, 2019). Cross-border remittance of earnings to the country of origin occurred more often rather than through personal home visits, usually from developing to industrial countries. Households with overseas migrant workers send money home to pay for better health costs, and children are in classes longer compared with households that do not send money home. In the short term, migrant is still the fastest and most stable route to economic conditions for many poor people in Myanmar.

Economists found that Myanmar migrant workers would have a large impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the state labor market when they permission. They know that migration will move people and labors from one location to another and improve their skills as they move along. Besides, migrants pay duties and take tax-funded help wherever they are and work, and economists are attentive in community funds or the economic impact of migrant workers, that is, if they earn more than they consume. These financial impacts have been widely argued. Such discussions frequently lead to dissimilar decisions. This replicates the difficulty in migration related to the movement of workers at dissimilar ability levels and underneath dissimilar conditions. The existing economic situation in the destination and origin countries differ due to many factors. As such, immigration affects the overall suppleness of the industrial structure and labor market of these economies.

Thailand has a large population with diverse economic sectors, thus, providing a platform for large-scale forms and structures of worldwide migration. Some nations like Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore have low-fertility and an aging population, with a stable or shrinking local labor. Meanwhile China, Vietnam, and other countries in the area are facing fast urban-rural workers, who would flock across the country's borders. Wage fluctuations between neighboring countries and countries in the Asia-Pacific region are very large, allowing labors who are eager to migrate to receive much advanced incomes for similar jobs overseas. Three revolutionaries over the historical period built strong bridges across the border and facilitated immigration. The communications revolution allows people to discover opportunities that exist in alternative countries. The transport

revolution permits people to migrate and capitalize on higher incomes abroad, and the rights revolution is an inspiration for the host country (Clemens & Pritchett, 2019).

3.2 Economic Impact of Myanmar Migrant Workers at Trang

There has been a policy discussion circling in Trang province about the advantages and disadvantages of low skilled immigration given the kingdom's development strategy of transiting toward a knowledge-based economy in order to remain competitive in the international markets. The obvious advantage of using low-skilled workers who migrate from neighboring countries is to fill the shortage of low-skilled export industries, even for a short term (Abella & Ducanes, 2009).

The movement of labor across borders is decided not solely by the push factors that encourage migrants to move to higher living standards, however conjoined by the pull factors from economic structural changes in labor importing countries. Additionally, the effect of globalization, such as domestic structural amendment, that influence the demand for unskilled and skilled work force, conjointly contribute to bigger international labor migration. Changes in relative issue scarcities are significant for international migration, even before the financial crisis in 1997. In response to fast economic development, numerous labor-abundant countries in East Asia started to face labor scarcities. That pressure continued in Trang province until recent years. Unemployment was recorded very low at 0.7 percent annually (Curran et al., 2016). Amidst a low demographic growth rate, aging population and a slow work force growth had apparently hampered the supply side of the labor market.

In the context of labor supply tightening, the production and export composition of Thailand has also changed significantly. Labor-intensive commodities in textile, garment and footwear industries along with agricultural products used to be the key in export-led growth before the fiscal crisis in 1997 and even numerous years of economic recovery. Currently, the dominance of exports is occupied by a more capital-intensive and higher-technology manufactures. Athukorala and Suphachalasai (2004) compared the level of competitiveness of Thai exports between the two periods 1990-1994 and 1998-2001 and discovered interesting findings. A large number of agricultural products represented reduced competitiveness compared to production products. The comparative advantage in processed food was the strength of Thailand's export structure. In production, there was an increase in the competitiveness of products belonging to the machinery and transportation equipment category.

At the same time, labor-intensive manufacturing products such as apparel, apparel, toys and shoes had decreased over time. Nevertheless, these products still surpassed the unity standard of being a comparative advantage product. The Thai economy had responded to tight labor markets and structural changes. Companies had different strategies according to the size of the company, while large companies were able to export funds to countries that used cheap labor or finance. Strategies were used to improve technology for more labor-saving production. Small and medium-sized companies were able to find cheaper foreign workers in Thailand. Therefore, the role and importance of low-skilled workers, as well as low-cost labor from neighboring countries, were accepted.

The negative view of international migration is constructed on an argument touching on four parts: dependency, instability, developmental distortion and an ensuing economic decline that overshadows the provisional benefit for a lucky minority of recipients (other authors have noted and mentioned this discussion, frequently couched in cost-benefit language). Migration, in this opinion, is like the export of merchandise. Importers managed the market price; in the case of labor. As a result, supply is consequently generous.

In addition, there is a financial dispute, pointing out the likelihood of an opposing result on technical development by introducing low salary migrant labors. High requirement on low-cost migrant labor inclines to sluggish financial rearrangement and output development in the labor importing country. The explanations are derived from the companies' behavior that heavily rely on the obtainability of uneducated labors and they presently join this availability into their commercial arrangement. Investiture and other choices of companies are created on the evidence that labor cost would be maintained by the supply of migrated workers.

The primary impact of migrant inflows to Trang province is an associate enlargement in the size of its economy, including the labor force. Per capita effects are less predictable: an injection of additional workers into the labor market could negatively impact some people in the pre-existing workforce, native- and foreign-born, while positively impacting on others. The wages and employment prospects of many would be unaffected (Pearson & Kusakabe, 2012). The direction, magnitude, and distribution of wage and employment effects are determined by the size and speed of the inflow, the comparative skills of

foreign-born versus native-born workers and of new arrivals versus earlier migrant cohorts, and the way other factors of production such as capital adjust to changes in labor supply. Growth in consumer demand (migrants also buy goods and services), the industry mix and the health of the economy, as well as the nation's labor laws, and enforcement policies also come into play.

In summary, Myanmar migration workers may contribute to the origin of inequality in the region. In parts of economic growth, unemployment in the receiving country and the dependency of migrant workers also have an undesirable impact. Although these undesirable effects may be seen as a matter of nature, some issues are difficult to specify. However, it often results in social spending that disturbs migrants through the continuous obtainability of migrant labors in the country, including easy access to migrant workers. Employers tend to like that there are easy access to these workers as migrant workers are generally better workers than the locals.

Reduced production due to increased use of unskilled labor could lead to disadvantages in a long-term competition, slowing progress towards becoming a learning society and would adversely affect the ability to negotiate. In the international trade arena, the protection of migrant workers used in the production process poses trade barriers (Jitsuchon, 2014). Although migrant workers play a significant part in the growth of Thailand's economic development, the entry of foreign workers in excess of the labor needs of the Thai economy and a poor-quality workforce for example, the person has congenital diseases, has no experience or knowledge of economic growth may) cause damage to Thailand as well. Therefore, the government and the private sector must

cooperate to find ways to prevent and reduce various damages that will affect Thailand's society.

The following heading's analysis of this study will be covered under this sub theme, namely:

- 1) Wage
- 2) Labor Demand

3.2.1 Wage

“Wage” mentions to the quantity of currency in agreement amid an associate company and worker to be salaried in return for labor done under a agreement of employ for regular working periods on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or other period of time basis or on the basis of piecework done during the usual working time of a working day. It also comprises money to be paid by company to an worker on holiday and on leave during which the worker does not work but is permitted to the currency underneath the Labor Protection Act in 1998.

Most people work in order to make money. Yet in several parts of the world, admission to satisfactory and regular salaries is not certain. In many countries, non-payment of salaries has led to huge salary arrears, and salaries are sometimes paid in bonds, manufactured goods, or even alcohol. Huge income debts have been connected to debt bondage and slavery. In other countries, labors expression damage of salaries when their company goes bankrupt. Previously the 2008 economic crisis, the association between salaries and worker output was already wrecked in several countries and this donated to the formation of worldwide economic inequities (Rhoden, 2015).

The Global Jobs Pact, accepted by the International Labor Organization (ILO) conference in 2009, made numerous references to minimum wages as one of the means of replying to such crisis, and agreement No. 131 is the only ILO tool to which it mentions exactly in that respect. When salaries rise in line with output rises, they are both maintainable and make a incentive for additional economic growth by growing households' buying control. The ILO values on salaries address these problems by providing for regular payment of salaries, the fixing of minimum wage levels, and the payment of unpaid wages in case of company bankruptcy.

3.2.1.1 Migrant Workers on the Wage of Native Workers

The impact of migrant workers in Trang province wages depends on many different factors, on the degree of the substitution or complementarity between migrant workers and native workers. A rise within the flow of migrant workers can lead to rise in the labor supply in the host country. The wages of native workers can decrease if migrant workers replace the native workers; and if the labor supply is not perfectly elastic in relation to wages. However, the degree of substitution between foreign and natives is predicted to vary across job and over time. In jobs that need low skills, the substitution is probable to be uncomplicated because "employees are more interchangeable and training costs are lower than in industries with skilled workers". In contrast, for occupations that need higher skills, it is difficult for employers to substitute migrant workers for native workers.

The influence of the Myanmar migrant workers on native workers' wages depends on how the labor supply changes because of changes in wages. It is probable that the labor supply of native workers and migrant workers can change in reply to changes in wages by moving

to new jobs or altering their skills. Such a condition could minimize the predictable negative impact of migrant workers on native wages. By contrast, native wages could increase if native workers and migrant workers are complements. Moreover, Athukorala and Suphachalasai (2004) classify two channels through which migrant workers have effect on native wages positively. First, the augmentation of the domestic labor supply through associate migration of labor can rise firm profits, which is able to facilitate an enlargement in investment and output. In the presence of such a twin market, native workers can enjoy a lot of job opportunities and increased employment choices.

Second, the flow of migrant workers can cause a rise within the demand for goods and services for consumption purposes whereas, at the same time, increasing the supply of labor, which can decrease native wages. The rise in the demand for goods and services can encourage companies to rent additional workers to fulfill market demands with a comfortable supply of goods and services. The rise in the demand for labor, that incorporates a positive impact on native wages, might compensate, albeit partly, the negative impact that results from the rise in the supply of migrant workers.

3.2.1.2 Minimum Wage Policy of Local Workers in Thailand

The minimum wage system in Thailand was first used when the Royal Decree No. 103, dated 16 March 1972, was enacted. The law empowered the Ministry of Interior to determine the lowest wage, overtime pay, working period and public holidays. The Net Working Capital (NWC) was founded as a three-way organization, which legally consists of at least nine members, but not more than 15 persons on behalf of companies and workers of the state. In the opening, this was nine board associates: seven were

administration legislatures, with solely one illustrative separately for companies and workers.

The NWC was charged with the responsibility to introduce income policies to the administration and set rates. Minimum income, which is defined as “the wage rate which employees should receive and adequate for the livelihood of their employees” (Charoenloet, 2015). The initial minimum wage was established at 12 Thai baht (THB) per day then were implemented solely to parts of Bangkok, Samut Pakan, Nontaburi and Patum Tani. Meanwhile 1974, the minimum wage was applicable to the entire kingdom and was geographically defined. The minimum wage determination in Thailand does not meet certain deadlines, although the minimum wage is adjusted annually. Nevertheless, it was not attuned in 1976, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1997, 1999 and 2000, but was modified double per year in 1974, 1989, and 1995. Later the initial minimum amount was immovable in 1973, it was created on a education on the price of living labors in Bangkok, Nontaburi, Patum Tani and Samut Pakan. The standards for adjusting the minimum wage depends principally on the price of living and the rise rate reproduced in the customer charge index

Meanwhile 1990, financial growing has been used to calculate salary changes using the following formulation: financial development amount separated by two plus inflation. (Paitoonpong, Akkarakul and Sukaraji, 2005). However, in training, the minimum wage is a result of cooperation amongst companies and workers through the participation of government legislatures. The minimum wage for 1998 was announced at THB162 per day in Bangkok, Nakon Patom, Nontaburi, Patum Tani, Samut Sakron, Samut Pakan and Phuket, THB140 in Chon Buree, Chiang Mai, Nakron Ratcasema, Phang Nga, Ranong

and Saraburi and THB130 for other provinces. Due to the 1997 economic disaster, which caused prevalent layoffs, minimum wages were not regulated for a few years (1999 - 2000). Precisely on January 1, 2005 there was an rise in minimum wage from THB137 to THB175.

The movement of minimum wages in large cities and provinces of the least minimum wage (base minimum wage) during the period 1998-2005 is depicted. One of the issues with the minimum wage system in Thailand is the high incidence of noncompliance. By definition and by law, minimum wages are to be paid to new and unskilled workers. As such, minimum wages ought to be applied to solely a comparatively less rank of unskilled workers who enter the labor market for the primary time or who are newly recruited. A rough approximation of the amount of new and unskilled workers is less than 100,000 workers yearly. Nevertheless, there are certainly a large number of employees who are paid less than the minimum wage.

This development was supplemented by a investigation conducted by the National Statistical Office in 2002, stating that labors were salaried 1.71 million fewer than the pertinent minimum income rate (Chandoevrit, 2004). In addition, in 2003, the labor inspection records of the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare revealed that out of the total 43,316 workers in the inspection institute, 11,240 workers were issued a total of 108,043 cheques (approximately 10.4%) that were less than the demand minimum wage. Compared to the 1994 estimate, 37 percent of institutions do not comply with the minimum income rule. In addition, the occurrence of non-compliance is higher among smaller institutions in large establishments. However, the incidence seems to be very rare.

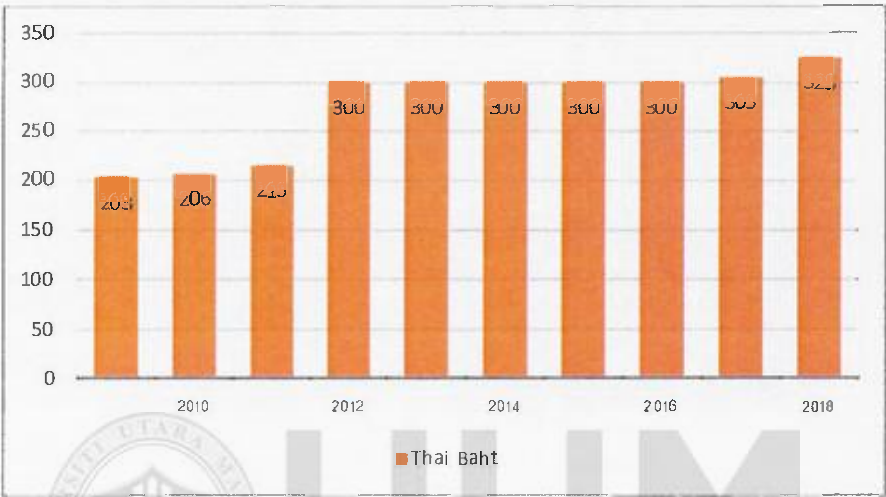
During an election campaign in 2011, the Thai Rak Thai Party proclaimed that the minimum wage policy of THB239 would be increased to THB300, which was an increase of 26%, should the party win. After winning the election, the THB300 minimum wage policy was enacted by the Thai Rak Thai government and applied to seven pilot provinces in Thailand in 2012 was widely used in the whole country on January 1st, 2013 onwards. In Trang province a minimum wage policy is given to the daily wage workers who specifically working in formal sector industries. Those involved in agricultural work, fishery, any government administration, or state-owned enterprises, house maids, and domestic workers were not aided by this policy (Jitsuchon, 2014).

According to the Ministry of Labor in Thailand, workers would run daily wages of THB300 under the restriction of no more than eight working hours per day and less than 48 hours per week with safe environments. However, if job descriptions relate to risky and dangerous working conditions such as working with dangerous chemical products in manufacturing and exporting, workers are restricted to work seven hours per day and 42 hours per week. If employers of any companies failed to abide by the law stated above, they would be fined, a range of THB5000 to the maximum of THB200,000, and could be jailed not exceeding one year.

Finally, the Thai cabinet on November 22, 2016 permitted the recommendations of the Central Wage Committee to extend the daily minimum wage rates by an additional THB5 for all provinces with effect from January 1, 2017. This will be the first adjustment in the country's minimum wage rates since January 1, 2013. Presently, the minimum wage is THB325 per day or approximately USD10 per month for a full-time job. For a full-time

job, the pay is approximately USD220 per month, considering one works 22 days in a month as depicted in Figure 3.3. The wage is expected to increase continuously in the future (Thangstapornpong & Porananond 2017).

Figure 3.3: Minimum Wage in Thailand by 2009-2018.



Source: Suttiwichienchot and Sampattavanija (2019)

3.2.1.3. Myanmar Migrant Workers affect Thai Minimum Wage

Eighty percent of the local respondents in Trang province believed that Myanmar immigration to Thailand decreases native wages. Developing countries differ from the developed ones in terms of the effect on the migration wage association. Example, in Thailand, similar to several developing countries, minimum incomes were seldom binding (Georgiadis, 2013). A considerable proportion of the native workforce would do the dirty or dangerous jobs sometimes related to migrants. In addition, Manning and Bhatnagar (2004) stated that the total number of illegal migrant workers in Thailand and Malaysia was around two-three million, that is, around the same as that in Europe during late 1990s.

In the course of the research's investigation a number of local workers interviewed agreed entirely with this assertion. According to an interview with a staff of the Immigration Department, he stated that Myanmar migrant workers become illegal because their visa had expired. Migrant workers in the fishery sector typically stay on the boat in the sea around 20 to 25 days per month, 18 to 24 hours per day with earnings of around THB250 to 300 and returned to the shore to take a rest at least for five days. Another respondent of local workers also corroborated the fact that the employer was able to get away with the minimum wage law partly due to the lack of strict and proper enforcement and partly to the bribery given to the law enforced officials.

According to Rhoden (2015), employers in these areas prefer migrants to native workers since migrants accept wages less than the minimum wage stated by law. If a native worker applies for the occupations, they must receive the same wage as migrants. Immigration became a public discussion during the economic crisis when the unemployment rate rose markedly. The availability of low-cost migrant labor was observed as one of the factors that inhibit the employment opportunities of the native workers and saw a reduction in their wages, as per interview granted by the local workers. Thai employees with low education receive wage similar to Myanmar workers with the same occupation. The local workers claimed that some industries paid a lower minimum wage even when they were entitled to the minimum wage under government law.

Moreover, the Myanmar migrant workers in rubber industry reported that they were willing to accept low wage because there were not many options. The working hours were from 7:30 to 17:00 and they claimed that they had a one-hour lunch break for which they

However, the Burmese workers did not know that their own wages reduce the Thai worker's wage—and still requested a wage equal to the minimum wage in Thailand. Similarly, the previous study by Puangyoykeaw and Nishide (2014) showed that although Myanmar workers earned low wages in Thailand, they still received more than the wages in their own country.

Wages of migrants per day	Thailand	Myanmar
Thailand currency	250-300 baht	64 baht-79 baht
Myanmar currency	7341-9419 kyat	2000-2500 kyats

From the table, it can be seen that wages in Myanmar are many times lower than wages in Thailand. It was not surprising that Burmese workers agreed to receive lower wages than Thai workers. Simultaneously, a staff of the Ministry of Labor who participated in this study observed that the Myanmar worker's wage was less than the Thai minimum wage (in the words of one key informant) because most Myanmar migrant workers at Trang province working condition was dangerous, dirty and difficult. Companies were not concerned about being able to employ enough labor for the occupation. Employing migrant workers also meant lower salary for companies. Clearly, Myanmar migrant

workers are low-priced than local workers because of the different wages and poor-quality output from the employment of migrant workers.

Though Thai law specifies that employers must pay migrant workers the same rate as Thai workers and provide them with similar employment assistances, migrant workers are usually paid less than Thai workers because their lack of bargaining power from their status and lack of knowledge about Thai law. The information revealed by local workers working with migrant workers revealed that most of the Myanmar migrant workers employed in Trang province received only 50% of the legal minimum wage. For example, Myanmar migrant workers earn THB150 Baht per day in contrast to that normally received by natives, who earn THB300 per day.

Meanwhile migrant workers will benefit directly from labor migration due to alterations in salaries in ASEAN countries which creates occasions for migration to labors in countries with low income. Entrepreneurs in Thailand prefer cheap labor in addition to there being a shortage of lower-level workers. Therefore, they chose to hire migrant workers in the production process that does not require much skill resulting in lower levels of Thai workers having the opportunity to work, especially in provinces with dense migrant workers. Due to the increase in the supply of lower-level workers, the wage rate that Thai workers receive was low (Mudronova, 2016).

In addition, adhering to the advantage of low labor costs, the operators may not encourage entrepreneurs to find ways to increase production efficiency to seek other advantages. The increased use of unskilled labor will lead to a disadvantage in the long-term competition,

thus, slowing the progress towards becoming a learning society. This in turn will adversely affect the ability to negotiate in the international trading platform if a competitor country raises the issue of protection of migrant workers used in the production process trade barrier issues (Kampan & Tanielian, 2017). Consequently, wages will fall, and employment will rise. However, the rise in employment will be less than the size of the immigration. Migrants will, therefore, displace some natives in employment and raise unemployment rates, thus, reinforcing the popular belief that migrants have a large adverse impact on the wages and employment opportunities of native workers.

Bad discrimination has a negative effect on the economy by causing cost and reduction in production efficiency. However, it will disappear by itself from the market dynamics, with complete competition that pushes manufacturers to have only the lowest cost remaining in the market. The enterprises without discrimination will have lower costs and higher production potential and will be a mechanism to drive the establishment that has chosen to fall out of the market. According to Brücker, Fachin and Venturini (2011), who studied competition in the global market, international trade has a mechanism in which a company would have the opportunity to employ less local workers due to the need to consider the cost of production.

3.2.2 Labor Demand

The traditional labor market model with demand-side employers and supply-side employees explains balanced wages and employment related to demand and supply. The rubber industry in Trang employed all the labors they require on this principle, and all employees wanted to work for a reasonable salary. Myanmar immigration increases labor

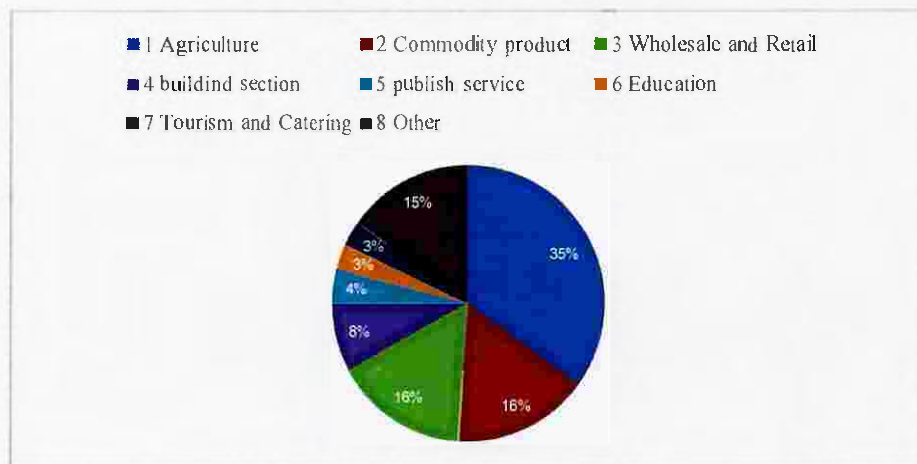
supply. In the short term, maintaining all other things (for example, the demand for labor and international trade), the increase in labor supply leads to reduced wage balance and a balanced level of employment. Nonetheless, it is still not clear who would benefit from higher employment (Walmsley, Aguiar & Ahmed, 2013).

In addition, there is a high possibility that in the fishing industry that some native laborers would lose their jobs or leave the market, with migrants searching for careers, while others have to endure unemployment. The results were based on strict assumptions such as economic conditions, market share, lacking the same skills for migrants and local workers. In the short term, migrants were seen as a great substitute for local labors, and they affect the labor supply lines as if local people replicated themselves (Ko, Rangakulnuwat & Paweenawat, 2015).

3.2.2.1 Labor Market Characteristics

Agriculture continues to be Thailand's major segment. However, it is predictable that wholesale and trade manufacture can still endure to raise with sustained foreign investment. Most distinguished parts of development will be in autos and computer electronics as well as rising attention in the facility segment (Lathapipat & Chucherd, 2013). Considerable public funding was created in the water and transport schemes as shown in figure 3.4.

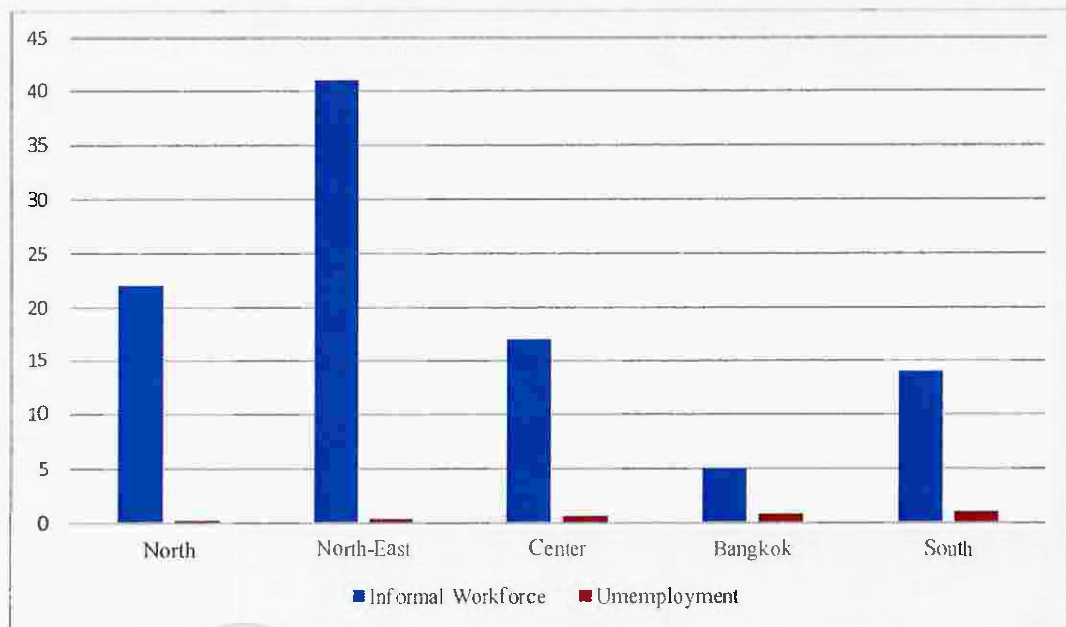
Figure3.4: Employment by sector 2016



Source: Brown (2016)

According to Jitsuchon (2014), in 2014, female employ in Thailand was 46% with females holding 39% of senior situations. Additional, joblessness continued dependably low, reducing as far as 1.1 %. As a outcome of this, Thailand has a high rate of casual employ in the labor-intensive manufacturing. Nevertheless, this amount is predicted to decrease as the quality of education recovers, leading to a rise in average wages and less employment in the labor-intensive sectors. In the earlier few years, the regular salary had improved by 11% with the highest average profits being positioned in Bangkok. Salaries were expected to endure to increase amid 5.0% and 6.5% in the following years. Meanwhile the national minimum wage design in 2013, Thailand has moved towards becoming an upper middle-income country. Though, the Kingdom's moderately low salaries still entice foreign investors.

Figure 3.5: Unemployment rate and Informal workforce per region in Thailand(%) 2016



Source: Tejani and Milberg (2016).

With rising salaries and low joblessness, Thailand is intent on refining its educational scheme to inspire a base of skilled labors. The Ministry of Education has provided funding to spread the number of tutors and has created numerous changes to the program. Free education is provided for up to 12 years with nine years of essential elementary education. Many students endure on to higher education due to higher financial rewards. All these changes towards the organization of a knowledge-based society. The present administration has put labors into the promotion of occupational training. Numerous private companies have conjointly recognized their own educational formations to provide for the occupational education of future labors. The Office of Vocational Education Commission goals Thailand to be the occupational education hub of the area (Feldmann, 2013).

3.2.2.2 Labor Shortage

The timing of the occurrence of labor shortages in Trang province depends on factors such as the first group of unemployed and low-skilled workers (excessive labor). The size of labor force associated with the rural economy, the informal sector in the city, population dynamics and labor market segmentation related to increased prosperity. As the recruitment of domestic workers is less flexible and involved more income and changes related to lifestyle, foreign employers (or companies) avoid hiring them at the lowest level of skills and wage distribution.

Additionally, the expansion of an industry results in higher wages. When this occurs the labor market will be more stringent. A company will have two options to maintain the competitiveness of the products that can be traded: increasing capital and move production bases in the country. While low wage is a step of economic change. Under the first strategy, the country will restructure by adopting new technologies to create industries that are more competitive with wage and rental rates (Maneejuk, Pastpipatkul & Sriboonchitta, 2016). In this situation, labor shortages (and increased wages) are “motivating factors” in the industrial upgrading process or only the necessary conditions. The results depend on the success of other factors, especially human capital and infrastructure, with the role of sufficient conditions.

The second alternative strategy is to export funds with labor-intensive technology to countries that use cheap labor through direct investment. However, this option is not available for all companies, such as those who have products that are not traded in domestic transportation and construction services. Even in the trading sector, this option

is mostly restricted to large companies, mostly in the industry. For most small companies in the industry, and for many companies that are involved in the distribution technology product line, the export of funds to find workers is not able to respond to the tightening of the domestic labor market.

For a company that has the possibility of implementing one of the two strategies, there is a third option: recruiting foreign workers. However, the company's decision to rely on foreign workers often depends on public policy. Under the choice of importing workers, for instance "Ladder economy of work" (Saksiriruthai, 2015), increased labor demand leads to higher employment, which is filled with labor supply in the existing country and the bottom of the stairs. Low-wage unskilled jobs are filled by recruiting migrants. In labor migration practices and in many areas, along with the upgrading of technology and foreign direct investment (FDI) circulation in foreign countries in response to the shortage of emerging workers in fast-growing countries in East Asia. The import of unskilled workers to facilitate restructuring is a less costly option than short-term technology upgrades. However, it can create important social and political problems in the medium to long term.

3.2.2.3 Employers Choose Myanmar Migrant Workers

The government aims to control the entrance and employment of Myanmar migrant workers in Trang province but finds it difficult than on employers who are migrants. The supply of migrants affects the employment industry as well as the perspective and selections of native labors. For instance, the obtainability of migrant workers might decrease the incentive for companies to find changes in labor savings. The government aims to control the entrance and employment of Myanmar migrant workers in Trang

province but finds it difficult than on employers who are migrants. The presence of migrant workers may encourage local workers to avoid “the work of migrants”, especially if they are likely to be a 3D work called dirty, difficult and dangerous. It is actually difficult to determine the migrant workers impact on incomes and employment options of native labors.

Migrants may have little impact on incomes if all or several labors in the manufacturing receive a minimum rate that could avoid income despair when migrant workers obtain a minimum rate. The readiness of migrant workers could slow the improvement on wages and working conditions related to financial development. However, it was difficult to measure migrant workers’ focused on the place, manufacturing and impact areas. They can spread rapidly through the low-cost and the labor marketplace because the goods they produce moves from place to another and native labors move and leave the area to search for work

The Thai economy responds to tight labor markets and structural changes. However, companies have different strategies depending on their size. Large companies can export their funds to countries that use cheap labor. Therefore, the role and importance of low-skilled and low-cost workers from neighboring countries with surplus labor is accepted. One of a clear indication of the need for foreign workers in the Thai labor market was the cry of Thai companies in response to the massive flight of Myanmar workers facing possible prosecution. According to the Thailand Military Corps, in 2014, more than 220,000 migrants left the country for a short period of time from 6 to 18 June for fear of being arrested and sent back home.

3.2.2.4 Negative Labor Demand Effects

In reality, local labor and migrants vary from state specific human capital, such as language effortlessness, expert interacting, community and social information. The basic skills alteration makes new migrants and domestic servants replace imperfect people. Workers, capital, knowledge and incomes are all manufacture factors that could be supplemented or replaced (El Badaoui, Strobl & Walsh, 2014). According to the neoclassical economic theory, Myanmar migrant labors in Trang province are part of the factors of manufacture - increase the charge of production factors that migrants fill and reduce the income of production factors which is a complete substitute.

Migration economics define that countries need migrants because the labor in that country was not greatly sufficient to cope with technical variations. The rate of joblessness (or unemployment) remained high as labors and local occupations was not continuously competition, or because jobless people might remain unqualified for existing occupations. Local labors frequently avoid jobs with migrants or jobs that involved repetitive tasks. Instead, they chose to live jobless, particularly in nations with strong safety status systems. Companies might attempt to fill occupations by bringing uneducated migrants or hiring although the skills required for the occupation might be lower than the capability of the migrants. Despite this, migrants were willing to receive occupations that offer advanced incomes compared to their native countries. Migrants often have a strong cultural network that helps them find jobs (Hamermesh, 2014).

Besides, the migrants could not access the same work as domestic workers especially in the labor market that restricts migrants to lower-level jobs as a supplement to local labors.

Though this would benefit local labors, it would trap migrants at lower financial and social levels. Moreover, self-employed migrants and businesspersons might take up an occupation themselves and hire local workers. As businesspersons and inventors, migrants could deliver more occupations indirectly through research and growth within their companies. Request for products and facilities cannot be fixed. Migrants affect the recruitment of workers as labors and rise the request for products and facilities as consumers. Increasing request affects the labor marketplace by increasing labor request which leads to a balanced increased in employment (Georgiadis, 2013). Capital, which was previously spent on upgrading equipment, were spent on low-skilled labors who were able to work repeatedly on their own at a much lower price. In this aspect, companies viewed low-skilled labors as compensating them for an otherwise higher cost of operation.

Therefore, Myanmar low-skilled workers may compete directly with the job, at least in the short term. Majority studies proved that this occurs in certain marketplaces and zones. However, the negative impact of employment is very small and is not statistically significant. Frequently, negative effects occur in the event of competition between recent and previous migrants with similar skills. In employing low-skilled foreign workers, coupled with highly skilled native workers, it would help foreign workers specialize in instruction and work out advancement in their careers. The work designed would be readily aimed at others, both migrants and local workers, to fill out. However, this completeness, besides higher movement of workers in the country, might result in future generations of foreign workers working with low skills and low wages, especially in a structured labor market. This form of employment and movement would reduce

communal unity and might avoid migrants from capitalizing in instruction and inflowing highly skilled careers.

Over a period of time, Myanmar migrants might have adapted to their new home philosophy and capitalize on the new knowledge and skills that would enable them to compete with local labors. In the course of the researcher's investigation, it was revealed, by the local workers that "Migrant workers taking away jobs from the Thais, especially during the severe economic slowdown and high unemployment rate, is still inconclusive". In support of the above, another interviewee from among the local workers said that "although migrants live in the country for a long time and are skilled in the same skills as domestic workers, they are still dissimilar from domestic workers and work on dissimilar occupations".

An analysis conducted by Huguet (2014) on the problem of unemployment revealed that dependency on too many foreign workers might affect employers or entrepreneurs in the country. Most migrant labors entering the country caused the vacancy rate to be insufficient. In addition, there were already many local workers including some types of work that has labor-saving machinery to help, therefore, causing some migrant workers to become unemployed. Most of these migrant workers were unskilled when competing with a job search. Therefore, in accepting low wage by cutting the labor cost lower caused a bad relationship between migrant workers who came first and poor welfare workers, often resulting in strikes and the call for higher wages.

Another interviewee from the Ministry of Labor stated that employment of Myanmar workers into new, low-skilled and low-income jobs could have two impacts: dependence on low-paying migrant labors and the abandonment of wealth and knowledge. Majority farming or seasonal work showed these results. Although satisfying, these occupations with migrant labors did not rightly affect the work of Thai labor. Nevertheless, there remain a variety of discipline issues, such as the difficulty in controlling the home of seasonal workers. Failure to advance capital or use new knowledge might mean that these occupations and results would not be able to compete in most moving abroad. Additional, illegal Myanmar migrant workers observed that Thai workers want to go to Taiwan, Singapore or Brunei to work in the dirty, heavy and dangerous sector with wages that are five to 10 times higher than the wages they would receive if they do the same work in Thailand.

Jobs can make a difference by sectors and skills. If numerous low-skilled migrant labors work at a specific sector, “They will compete with indigenous, low-skilled workers in this sector. Native workers moving to other locations have lower incomes than local workers and modification occupations (Hamermesh, 2014).” In support of the above statement, another informant staff at the Ministry of Labor noted that: “Myanmar migrant labors might support the development of product and service production. However, the product may not grow with it”. For example, Hamermesh (2014) studied the highly expert Russian workers to Israel in the 1990s. They were high-tech workers but had a very negative relationship in the low technology industry.

In summary, a local worker stated that “Thailand needs to have a strict employment protection law to protect local workers from the loss of jobs to migrant workers” as the law could reduce short-term job losses. However, it could have a long-term negative impact by slowing or avoiding the drive of domestic servants to have better skills and occupations. In the case of illegal migrant workers, the illegal respondents reported that similar barriers to labor migration in this region caused restrictions on labor welfare. Should receive from migration because workers could not migrate to work resulting in the number of migrant workers entering the country illegally. The high migration costs make poor households unable to pay the costs involved in entering the country legally. Workers would work overseas if they could afford to pay the required fees. A migration that has a very time-consuming and high-cost process resulted in many labors choosing other alternatives. Hence, migrant workers avoid wasting time and expenses by crossing the border illegally into Trang province and work there without obtaining a work visa.

Many local labor informants in the Trang province claimed that migrant workers would be negatively affected by more workers, especially those without skill. Nonetheless, the impact would be limited and could be the result of inefficiency of the labor market. In general, local workers who are unskilled at a level close to migrants will be at risk of receiving together optimistic and undesirable effects. In the situation of Trang, the effect of migrant workers on wages is a moderate undesirable impact for the Thai labors with little education, but it is a optimistic impact for workers with higher education. The policies of Thailand contribute to the negative impact on local workers because of the labor market that is not flexible. For example, there are strong labor protection laws such as temporary employment and the termination of employment may cause workers to

encounter obstacles in changing jobs and moving workers to adjust and seek opportunities arising from having migrant workers in Thailand.

There are lack of funds for the provision of education and skills training for skills development for migrant workers. As a result, migrant workers from these countries are still lack skills, knowledge and understanding about work leading to problems of being depression and being exploited in employment. Moreover, there is a difficulty in solving the problem of high commission rates which burden the migrant workers, resulting in the illegal migration of the unskilled workers. Most of them are poor, have no skills and knowledge, but are ready to take up work of all kinds. Even though the work is dirty, dangerous or difficult, it brings income for themselves and their families. This remains particularly factual in the situation of illegal workers, who are ready to accept low employment conditions, such as wages below the minimum wage of 30 to 50 %, who do not receive additional wages even if they have to work for ten hours per day, who receive no days off, who could not take sick leave, when they have no other work, and no right to receive any compensation. Life is difficult for an illegal labor because he/she dare not demand any rights from the employer for fear of being fired or the employer may inform the police to have him/her arrested. Most employers do not want to hire Thai workers because they have to implement employment standards required by law.

3.3 Chapter Summary

Thailand has problems in managing migrant workers because of financial achievement, causing native workers who worked the “3-D” sector to find jobs elsewhere at home and overseas. Thai companies turned to migrant workers from Burma, Laos and Cambodia to

replace jobs left vacant by previous workers in the country, as well as fill up new jobs created in the expanding economy of Thailand. Obviously, migration policy is founded on the supposition that the demand aimed at migrant workers is short-lived. Although there is a new registration period for migrant workers at certain industries and professional locations, Thai officials who have been monitoring long-serving migrants recalled that worker migration is a procedure to be handled, not a problematic that needed to be resolved (Mon, 2005).

Thailand is extra fertile than neighboring countries, thus, attracting the migration of labors into Thailand. When managing migrations of workers, this is significant to recall that both Thai companies and migrant labors need to bear in mind the uncertainty in the extension of the work license which is only for one or two years. Moreover, because of the uncertainty of the extension, migrant workers often do not receive training and assistance to acquire more knowledge of the Thai language. Providing a work permit for three to five years will change the motivation of employers and migrants and can encourage more training and increase efficiency. The additional test is towards a soft migration strategy that takes into consideration the reality of the region where foreign workers are hired. For instance, migrant workers in farming work in low-income sector, however, the registering fees are also high when compared with income.

The government offers additional flexibility in border areas, but it might be necessary to enlarge this flexibility by supporting native programs that require migrant workers to be documented that require migrant workers to be documented so as to enable them to be treated fairly in the community and facilitate them to move from farmhouse to farmhouse.

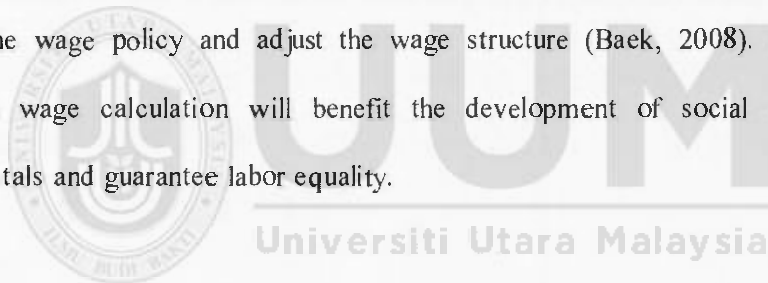
Likewise, in the fishing sector where migrants might remain mostly at sea throughout the registering period. Global knowledge delivers at least three lessons in managing migrant workers. Firstly, temporary labor programs are usually larger and longer than expected because employers and migrant workers must rely on each other.

Firstly, temporary labor programs are usually larger and longer than expected because employers and migrant workers must rely on each other to avoid the effects of “nothing is extra enduring than provisional labor.” Financial inducements necessitate the strengthening of the rule goalmouth of plummeting requirement on migrant workers for a period of time rather than the normal economic inducements that are in conflict with project rules. Secondly, there are financial tools obtainable to arrange the welfares of companies and migrant workers in accordance with the policy goals. For instance, companies tend to pay registration fees if using some funds would improve the amount of work hours that increase work efficiency and increase competitiveness. Migrant labors are inclined to show up at the end of the occupation permit if they obtained a refund of some of the fees paid.

In addition, the minimum wage policy in the last 20 years has been successful at a certain level in order to maintain the standard of living of workers. Although the minimum wage does not result in large unemployment, most businesses use it as a benchmark for annual wages. Therefore, the minimum wage is a guideline for fair treatment of workers, including a stable purchasing power. However, the minimum wage cannot allocate an equal share of economic prosperity to the workers. Labor is still unfairly exploited. The recommendation is to use GDP growth in the normal period, along with GDP growth in

the long term. In other words, workers are involved in the production (Sanglaoid, Santipolvut, & Phuwanich, 2014).

The impact of the minimum wage on overall employment numbers remains uncertain. There is no doubt that the new entrance to the labor force and unskilled workers will be affected as a manufacturer can replace skilled workers to replace workers who hire more workers. The ability of the average wage to adjust freely over the minimum wage may reduce the number of layoffs. In addition, the large informal agricultural sector can absorb the dismissal caused by the increase in the minimum wage. However, the new minimum wage management procedure under the 1998 Act shows the government's willingness to change the wage policy and adjust the wage structure (Baek, 2008). Structure with minimum wage calculation will benefit the development of social and economic fundamentals and guarantee labor equality.



CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIAL IMPACTS ON NATIVE LABOR MARKET

4.1 Introduction

The entry of Myanmar migrant workers into Trang province, which enable these workers to become part of the local community has created social problem of coexistence in various forms that has both positive and negative implications and impact on local workers. Some local workers have good relationship with Myanmar migrant workers and look at these workers as contributing to the economy and creating a comprehensive work for the community. However, increasing unemployment of local workers because employers prefer Myanmar workers who receive low salary has brought conflict with local workers, resulting in bad relationship with the Myanmar workers.

The social impact of Myanmar migrant workers at Trang province that occurs on the economic system is obvious. It often affects the level of income and profits of the business sector and hinders the overall economic growth. For instance, a research in the United States, a country with a long history of fighting against obstacles from racism between the black and white people stated that discrimination based on race, color, sex and sexual orientation does occurred. The discrimination that still exists in the American society in modern times has a clear negative economic impact, resulting in the overall national income about USD64 billion or representing Thai loss of approximately THB2,240 billion per year (Bal, 2018)

Although no research has been conducted to confirm the number of losses incurred in Thailand from the selection practice in the labor market, negative effects linked to the macroeconomic levels would spread to all groups in the country, even if it is far from any form of discrimination. In addition, economists have defined discrimination as the unequal treatment of people with differences both in terms of demographic characteristics or basic beliefs such as discrimination against minorities, sex, age, religious beliefs, political attitudes and sexual orientation, among others.

Moreover, unequal practice often involves unequal pay based on the types of work and responsibilities of the selected employees. Employers have the tendency to choose mainly male workers to work in the factory because they felt that female workers would pay more attention to raising children and would not be dedicated to work or would not be able to supervise labor across the country who are more hard working than the Thai labors. Although both groups would receive equal wages and have the same work responsibilities, it could not be disputed that some employers do discriminate one group over the other (Dinesen, Klemmensen & Nørgaard, 2016). However, economic discrimination is not limited to discrimination caused by employers in the workplace but includes discrimination among colleagues and discrimination from consumers as well. For example, some customers were said to have stop buying coffee from coffee shops with migrant workers.

Similarly, Srivirojana et al. (2014) claimed that the Myanmar people have always understood that Thai people do not like and feel bad for them. Nevertheless, they did not express their anger because they know that living in other people's land is tricky made me

ready to forgive Thai people and always explained why I had to work including why to claim the rights that should be received I just want Thai people to listen to their voices without prejudice. In a research done by Ford and Holomyong (2016), the authors quoted one of the migrant workers as saying that he was willing to forgive the Thai people and had always explained why he had to work and claim the rights that he should be receiving. He just wanted the Thai people to listen to their voices without prejudice. They added he understood that the Thai people hated him because of two main things; history and competition for work.

The second was that the Thai people did not like to compete for a career. Even though it was not true, the Thai people did not like to work in the fishing industry, construction and other jobs that are dirty or risky. The existence of this fear helps strengthen the physical violence causing the continued exploitation of these transnational people as normal until a government policy guideline was adopted and things were put to right (Longhi, Nijkamp & Poot, 2006). Hence, the relationship between the Myanmar migrant workers and Thai workers created several problems in the community that affect native labor market in Trang province.

4.2 Social Impact of Myanmar Migrant Workers at Trang

Having a large number of migrant laborers working in the same activities as Thai workers and offering much lower wages than native workers, affect the stability of the native. At the same time, hiring migrant workers would easily replace Thai workers. This would give employers a way to have bargaining power over Thai employees in controlling wages and

not providing benefits that the Thai employees are entitled to when the national development level rises, which is considered as taking advantage of the Thai workers.

In addition, the fewer opportunities for employers to offer wages in accordance with labor protection laws when employees are illegal status. They will be enslaved in terms of wages and welfare being easily exploited by employers. However, in terms of economic security must see an overview of the benefits and disadvantages of hiring a large number of Myanmar migrant workers. While also giving importance to the social and public health impacts. In order to create a balance between the employment of Thai and migrant without affecting the stability of Thai workers.

This chapter presents basic information, including analysis from studies and research from documents relating to the social problem of Myanmar migrant workers. It may be concluded that the both legal and illegal migrants who came to work in Trang province today has created problems in Thai society. The main problems fall under crime and public health. There are indications that those social problems have affected the native labor markets in Trang province.

4.2.1 Crime

The problem of migration workers viewed from the eyes of the Thai government is considered a form of security threat to the government. Migrant workers are humans who could provide benefits and create problems just as the locals in the territory of the native people under various circumstances. As such, the government believed that it might need to study the civil registration law or look at the bigger picture that covers culture, politics

and governance which are a strong obsession with the Thai people. Although Myanmar migrant workers are an important part in the development of the Thai economy, there are excess entry of low-skilled and unhealthy migrants (such as not having experience or expertise or background knowledge and carrying disease) in the demand for labor in the Thai economy. Instead of helping to develop the economy of the country, they could cause harm to Thailand.

Besides looking at the stability of the economy, one must see the overall picture of the benefits and disadvantages of hiring a large number of workers. Importance should also be given to social impacts and other issues in order to create a balance in the wages of the Thai and migrant workers so as not to affect the stability of the Thai labor market. This study highlights the social issues due to the fact that more Myanmar migrant workers have been coming to work in Trang province-which may cause social problems such as crime. It was well known that there was competition for work among the large number of illegal migrant workers themselves. This research therefore classifies criminal problems into two factors: property and drug problems.

4.2.1.1 Property problem

Some Myanmar migrant workers are unemployed and theft involving properties are often found to occur in communities that have a large number of illegal migrant workers. There were frequent arguments due to drinking and burglary of workshops and Thai societies causing some Thai people to be suspicious and afraid of the danger posed by unlawful migrant workers in the communal. Barcelo (2016), who studied the opinions and attitudes of Thai local workers on migrant workers, found that the familiarity of the community

towards migrant workers having a registration status of labor and the ability to communicate in Thai language were important factors affecting the positive attitude of local workers in the community.

However, the results of a survey carried out under the cooperation of the World Health Organization and Research Institute Population and Society in 2013 (Kanchanachitra, Niyomsilpa & Punpuing, 2014) among local workers reflected the suspicion of Thai people towards migrant workers in general. In addition, the study found that more than half the Thai workers felt that migrant workers were a threat to life and property which is partly due to news of migrant workers, creating a sense of fear of people in the area. Moreover, the survey also revealed the concerns of competition in the labor market, with more than half of the local workers believing that the migrants came to compete in the Thai labor market.

In contrast, paranoia can occur in migrant workers as well, not only limited to the Thai people in an area, as immigration into the new environment creates uncertainty. Hence, there is a need to adjust to the foreign environment with different languages and cultures, pushing this group of workers to be marginalized people who are seen as “others” in Thai society. In addition, there are always the risks of being exploited and excluded or discriminated against when migrant workers enter the labor market compared with other groups of workers.

In addition, another thing that is evident in a community with a large presence of migrants is the condition of the environment. It was observed that the community faced the issue

of hygiene as garbage were not well taken care of. The community became dirty because of the lack of regulation of illegal migrant workers. Based on the statistics of migrant inmates arrested due to immigration violations or other offences and awaiting repatriation each year, the largest numbers are from Myanmar.

Myanmar migrant workers at Trang receive wages lower than the minimum rate required by law and many migrant workers have to work hard both in the form of work beyond the period required by law and working at special times such as night and morning. This negative impression calls for the state to have a policy to strictly control migrant workers and preventing those people from entering and forming permanent bases in the country. Fear of foreigners surfaced for different reasons, such as the 9/11 terrorist attack in Washington, which is particularly important for migrating and migrant workers in America and Europe. The spate of distrust of foreigners was awakened, especially against certain races or groups such as the Arabs, Muslims, and people from other non-Caucasian lands. It increased the level of rigor towards people entering the country. These include being very strict in issuing travel document (visa) in many countries and enactment of specific laws on security and control of foreigners (Sagnuankiat, 2016).

In many countries, there have been increasing measures and strict control of migrant workers, as Koser (2010) observed in Europe, North America, and Australia. Measures to control transnational migrant workers have had been intensified by dividing the control alley into many steps, at each step, there were many measures with many requirements such as deepening into the investigation of the background of the person who wants to enter the country, interviewing during recruitment, transportation and workplace

businesses that hire workers. The use of modern technology to search for or track a traveler add to the control of the foreigners for reasons of suspicion that may be harmful to one's nation.

Human rights are another pole of the concept of managing migrant workers, which has a role in challenging the concept of fear of foreigners. Scholars and practitioners who believe in the principles of human rights of migrants often begin to debate by pointing out the basic facts. Human migration is a common phenomenon since prehistoric times in order to find the necessary things to live, find better opportunities or avoidance of disaster but migration was just a problem in the 19th century when the state of the nation arose. The journey of the people who had been independent became a matter of passing through the boundaries of one state's control. Therefore, migration is a fundamental human right. It is the basic human right (Harun & Shah, 2013).

This right has been officially endorsed in the United Nations International Human Rights Declaration 1948 emphasizing that "everyone has the right to freedom of movement or shelter in various state boundaries and everyone have the right to travel in one country, whether it is their country or country other". Moreover, on the issue of the country of origin of labor it can benefit from migrant workers only considering remittance of money. This issue is often seen as an excerpt. It should consider the benefits of both the source and destination countries. The money that workers send home came from doing work in the destination country which means creating economic value for the destination country. In fact, most of them receive lower wages than they should have received. That the benefits will fall to the destination country on the issue that workers across the country

compete for jobs in the destination country is not true because the work that most migrants do are the jobs that people in the destination country do not want to do. When the job market is differentiated in the market, there is no reason to say that migrant workers come to lower wages for domestic workers. However, Myanmar migrants are often preserved as slave labor and given jobs that are dirty, unsafe and problematic that Thai workers are no longer willing to do.

Tunon and Baruah (2012) urged his related countries not to interpretation Burma migrants as unwelcome assailants. Nevertheless past hostility, national security, and the “ingratitude” of Burmese people are frequently cited when there is a clampdown against student protestors or refugees, Thais should not be blinded by suspicion. The realism is that, irrespective of historic ills, “there’s no aim why these people merit to be preserved badly, particularly when Thais suppose foreigners to treat their own employees overseas politely, whether in Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan or Japan” (Tunon & Baruah, 2012).

Thai attitudes towards Burma have been formed by the Thai ethnocentric media of the 1990s and a nationalistic school system, which teaches that Burma is Thailand’s traditional enemy, based on repeated wars between the two from the 16th century onward. This negative view was further popularized in novels and films, presenting heroic Thais fighting against villainous Burmese invaders. Examples of recent films that portray this are *Bang Rajan* (2000), *The Legend of Suriyothai* (2001), *King Naresuan* (film series, 2007 onwards), and *Siyama* (2008).

There is a little great reason why Thais, specially the civil culture, should make an effort to alter past errors and present suspicion. First, the public should be more helpful towards migrant employees, legal or otherwise, as well as former student activists who are seeking refuge in Thailand. There are confidently corrupt people among them, just as there are confidently bad people amid the Thais, but that does not make all of them criminal. The fact is, several irregular migrant workers from Myanmar, frequently mentioned to as unlawful migrant workers, are regularly exploited by dissimilar parties. Unscrupulous companies treat them as slave labor. Immoral police extract money from them and the community merely turns a blind eye - some saying they merit it for what Myanmar did to Siam more than 100 years ago (Dustmann, Glitz & Vogel, 2010).

Even though they are normally mentioned to as “unlawful”, it does not make migrant labors “criminals”. The actual criminals are unfair companies, human trafficking rings and immoral police officers, who methodically extract money from the employment in migrant worker. Using migrant worker and dissident students as scapegoats only serves to blind the public from seeing the structure of corruption that is such a part of Thai culture. However, the opening of the ASEAN community is a condition to learn from one another, to open an eye and look at the neighbor and the hostility of the historical war should not be ~~in~~ dragged to the present. Although it may be difficult to prevent previous hate comments from circulating, ASEAN citizens may be able to create a new generation of friendly people as the older generation would gradually disappear over time (Senik, Stichnoth, & Van der Straeten, 2009).

A Myanmar migrant worker interviewed told about his experience, that he had moved from Burma to Thailand 26 years ago since his father came to work in Thailand. He said that when he first arrived in Thailand, the Thai people knew that they were Burmese and did not want to talk to them. He said that he had experienced this for more than 20 years and the Thai people began to show better attitude during the past four-five years. He also added problems of estrangement and prejudice against the Thai people in Burma, and the way that the Thai people spent time in the past learning history lessons in Thailand and Myanmar were different. In Myanmar, the history lessons study facts which focused on the moment and what had happened but would not describe the story or put emotions.

Based on the statistics of foreign inmates arrested due to immigration violations or other offenses and those waiting for repatriation each year, the increasing number of offenders were Burmese. Currently, approximately a million illegal migrants as mentioned earlier are expected to be registered. Half of this group are women and children who were at risk of being a victim of human trafficking. The in-depth interviews of the sample found that 90% of Thai workers in the Trang province expressed concern about the problem which has become the main reason that Burmese workers steal food and supplies of people. However, the Burmese migrant workers did so to survive when they did not receive their wages from the head of the labor or the Burmese workers were paid late.

They resorted to steal things from the community to survive because they did not have money to spend. A local worker recounted that at one time the fish in the pool had disappeared and during the two months period, the villagers were in trouble. Chickens that

had been raised and vegetables grown were stolen and the barbed wire fences were cut. Moreover, the local worker added that their gardens which also has lodges equipped with kitchenware were broken into at night by the Myanmar migrant workers who stole all the spoons, cups, knives, detergent. They also stole the net in the fishpond. Similarly, another local worker claimed that the employer left over a hundred workers without pay, causing them to steal people's food.

4.2.1.2 Drugs problem

Most of the Burmese migrants in Trang province are illegal migrants and are mostly male. They are unemployed and are financially weak. Their social networks are limited and not very tight in comparison to Thai workers. Some of these problems were due to the fact that Burmese migrant workers were smuggled into Thailand and faced increasingly unstable conditions especially during the economic crisis. This is because the Thai government is also obliged to first solve the country's economic problems and help the unemployed Thai workers first.

Srivirojana et al. (2014) found that the impact of crime in the Thai-Burmese border area was found to be offense carried out by almost all types of Myanmar minorities. The authorities were able to prosecute the offenders, especially those involved in offenses related to drug trafficking, mayhem against property, life, body or even illegal employment. Graycar (2017) stated that the social problem that arises was the smuggling of Burmese workers whereby the country's laws were ignored and the perpetrators found ways to seek benefits from officials and related parties and caused problems in

maintaining public order, especially with the drug problems and prostitution. These may continue to result in minority problems and racial problems in the future.

In addition, Ford and Holomyong (2016) also studied the labor migration process that occurred by adapting the push-pull theory to explain the phenomenon that was happening based on the assumption. The labor movement was caused by the push factors and pull factors. The push factor was caused by the pressure factor that caused the labors to abandon their old place of residence. The pull factor was what induced or attracted the labors into the target area. The study found that the reason for the labor movement was the driving factor in the source area more than the attracting factor in the target area. From the study, it was found that the causes of labor movement in the source area was driven by motivation more than the pull factor in the target area. The labor migration process was a short-term movement during the first period, and this generally be attracted to the city quickly. The amount of movement would be exhausted when the expansion of the city spread to cover rural areas.

Chalamwong (2004) found that migrant workers, especially the illegal and unregistered migrant workers, affect the political, security, economic and social environments. In Trang province, a local worker stated that illegal migrant workers faced difficulty accessing the public health services, which led to contact of communicable diseases. As a result, the government agency had to bear the expenses on health care to treat the migrant workers. Nevertheless, the budget had not seen as increase despite the rise in health cases among the migrant workers every year.

Moreover, education through informal classes were also held among illegal migrant workers as the number of alien workers who have been illegally engaged in illegal work had increased. The enrollment in Thai schools for children of these illegal foreign workers to receive education like Thai children are difficult. At the same time, allowing foreign children to enter the Thai education system would have an impact on educational security of Thai children as well. The state would need to allocate the budget for education development each year to help these alien children when there are still many Thai children who lack good education opportunities.

Similarly, in an interview with a local worker, the respondent said that, “The destination country should bear the burden of the cost. Social welfare is paid from the tax system of the people in the destination country. In addition, a staff with the Ministry of Labor suggested that Thai entrepreneurs had reduced the use of technology in production instead of workers for about 20 years as these entrepreneurs did not see the need to change. Moreover, the native workers are still necessary in labor market, but it is likely that the company have to change machines to replace unnecessary migrant labors.

Presently, most entrepreneurs agreed that hiring migrant workers is not convenient. Registration is quite difficult, time consuming and expensive. In addition, the quota for the grants is limited each year. Employers argued that the government should open registration throughout the year giving them the right to choose the period and disagreed with the government’s policy to push migrant workers to flee the country. If this happened, it would increase production costs. However, the children from legally documented family

were able to receive education in Thai school. This was made possible as many institutions claimed that although these children did not have Thai nationality, the government should provide the opportunities for foreign children to enter the Thai educational system. Their presence would affect the educational security of Thai children as well.

According to Barceló (2016), "Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand involved the dimension of safety issues that must be maintained and controlled in order to not affect the way of life of people (Barceló, 2016)." There have been many researches conducted in Thailand that indicate that migrant workers are a threat to the security of Thai society because people in Thailand felt insecure for their lives and property when living with this group of people. They believed that migrant workers could commit crimes, such as petty theft. In addition, a respondent employer explained the fact that if he were to employ migrant workers, he would have to take care of them. He added that they would be safe if the migrants are well taken care of. It was clear that if they could identify with the peculiarities of the migrant workers it would help in addressing any problem or in providing education, health insurance and improving work efficiency with them. These would certainly be beneficial to the entire economy.

In contrast, a local worker indicated that the main concern of the destination countries, the local people and the mass media was the impact on domestic security as the state could not verify the increase in the number of people because there is no control system. The increase in the numbers and habitats could cause uncontrollable activities for the state, such as informal employment, disease treatment, illegal clinics, as well as increased recognition (Card, 2005). According to an official staff with the Ministry of Labor, today

the country could not deny that it needs migrant workers as they are a driving force to the economy. Could the people accept this? Thai workers may see them as friends while employers may view them as assisting in the creation of wealth. However, the state needs to look at the migrants in terms of security.

In sum, the large number of foreign migrants working in Thailand illegally are scattered throughout the country. Their exact number and place of residence remains unknown. However, it is estimated that there are no more than two million illegal foreign workers in Thailand while the administration of foreign workers is not as effective as they should be. Therefore, the problem of foreign workers inevitably affects national security, especially illegal migrant workers of Burmese nationality. Although the government has a policy to force out the foreign workers, it has not been as effective as it should be because even though the government was able to drive out the illegal migrants, they would return to Thailand again. In addition, illegal foreign workers have permanent addresses. There is movement in and out between countries.

In reality, many migrant laborers try to seek document status because no one likes the danger of being arrested, deported, and exploited. Nevertheless, the legal way for migrants in Thailand is not accessible to most migrants. Pearson and Kusakabe (2012) said "Many migrants need to enter Thailand legally. However, past institutional settings both in sending and receiving labor make entry into the country difficult for them. Therefore, these workers become "abnormal" migrants when they arrive and live in Thailand illegally." According to Pocock et al. (2018) also emphasized the complicated and

expensive registration process that makes Burmese workers and companies avoid legal registration.

In addition, the research in Samut Sakhon regarding brokers and Myanmar migrant workers by Dwyer (2004) showed that migrant workers arriving in Thailand after 2004 became technically illegal when the Thai cabinet modified the submission. Foreign workers were required to apply for a work permit and 90% of migrants had to register and find information about work registration. Although there were many limitations: language barriers, complicated labor registration procedures, and limited information about migration policies and normalization procedures, migrants often driven to seek help from agents / brokers. Fees were charged between THB3,000-8,000. Despite this, many would end up with nothing achieved but an illegal status. In many cases, major policies still contain restrictions on regular migrant workers and even support indirect migration and increase migration weakness.

The Burmese workers who came to work in Trang live in houses for rent, abandoned markets and rubber plantation areas. The wastes discharged from this community, such as feces and urine, were not properly maintained, emitting unpleasant odor that caused discomfort to people in the surrounding communities. However, the Burmese migrant workers were not sensitive to the problems that affected them and the Thai people in nearby communities. In addition, all local respondents in the research commented that after the Burmese migrant workers moved back to their area of origin, people in the community found a lot of rubbish in the areas where Burmese workers used to live such as plastic bags, tissues and food scraps. The rubbish was scattered in the area of the

Burmese migrant workers. In addition, these wastes were not disposed of properly. Therefore, sending an unwanted odor to the surrounding area beside where people in the community live and negatively affects the environment of the community.

It was observed that robbery often occurred in societies where there were a large number of illegal foreign labors. Some of these Myanmar migrant workers were unemployed. Quarrel frequently occurred due to intake of alcohol, taking drugs and thefts at shops of the Thai societies, causing some Thai local to become suspicious and afraid of the potential danger from unlawful migrant workers in the communal. Aadditional, another obvious evident in the community was that the environment was filled with a lot of garbage, the community became dirty because of the lack of regulation of illegal migrant workers. The smuggling of labors from neighboring countries, especially Myanmar into Thailand is increasing every year.

An employer in the interview of this study reported that there were a number of Myanmar migrant workers who were addicted to drugs, who used drug and who were in possession of the illegal substance. Nevertheless, the government has yet to clearly specify how many of them are involved in the usage or possession of drugs. There are only statistics of patients receiving treatment continuously. If the government failed to take any action, it would become a continuous problem and would affect general society. However, there needs to be budget allocation to send these migrant labors for treatment. However, it was not clear what budget was used from which department. Nonetheless, it was found that

migrant workers who were sent to rehabilitate would not stay to complete the treatment as scheduled.

However, Myanmar migrant laborers who were subject to probation were required to enter a legal compulsory treatment system. They were required to undergo rehabilitation therapy in approximately six months but the Rehabilitation Subcommittee had determined that they would receive no more than four months. In addition, another employer respondent added that a number of Myanmar migrant workers who underwent treatment were actually able to stop dealing in drugs. However, the number was very small. In most cases, when they were required to report to the Department of Probation, they would not turn up for the treatment program or would have escaped to their own country because they were free to travel. They could travel around any time, except those who had entered the city illegally, and were required to enter the rehabilitation system.

4.2.2 Public Health

When Burmese workers fell ill or had health problems at Trang province, it was found that there was a pattern of seeking services, health or dealing with health problems as follows:

4.2.2.1 Safe-Care

If it was a minor illness, nothing serious, the migrant would prefer to buy his/her own medication from pharmacies near the person's accommodation, such as a common modern medicine like antipyretic or analgesic. However, some groups prefer to consume

traditional and herbal medicine taken from their homeland in Burma to treat back pain, reduce fever and cure headache. These folk medicines have the characteristics of dried plants which can be bought at the flea market where Burmese merchants sell in the big market of Trang.

4.2.2.2 Professional Supervision

Nowadays, Burmese workers are starting to get more services according to their rights in the health insurance system as the number of out-patient services at various hospitals, both public and private, in the part increased. However, most of them still choose to look after themselves because they lack the understanding of the right to receive services. Moreover, they are afraid of unresolved communication issues between Burmese workers and hospital staff. Some people are afraid that their illness would not be covered by the collateral rights and would have to pay the excess treatment cost themselves, afraid of expensive medical expenses, have no money to pay, among others. In most cases, service recipients who are Burmese workers would be hospitalized due to serious illnesses, when giving birth or when relatives or acquaintances from the Burmese community went to the hospital as advised by fellow Burmese workers to see a doctor or to seek advice on the rights that cover illness which could be treated.

4.2.2.3 Health problems of Burmese workers

4.2.2.3.1 Rights and Legal issues:

Many informants have put forward the problems that some migrant workers would face when encountering health issues. A person might fall sick and would be unable to receive treatment at both the public and private service centers which could occur in the case of

illegal migrant workers who were not registered migrant workers. They would not have a health insurance card, which makes it impossible to receive treatment at various health facilities. Hence, some people would buy medicine themselves, making the situation worse or would die from illness while others would go to get treatment at the clinic, resulting in a lot of expenses driving them to take up loans from employers or friends.

4.2.2.3.2 Illness with Communicable Diseases

According to Graycar (2017), many Burmese migrant workers are now suffering from communicable diseases, especially tuberculosis, which has increased the number of people suffering from this disease. Unfortunately, most of them have not received treatment continuously. Due to lack of knowledge about disease progression some people do not have time to go for treatment. They were afraid of missing work or failed to understand the treatment plan that required long-term medication. Migrants are not aware of the need to prevent the spread of the disease which could spread to family members and colleagues.

4.2.2.3.3 Communication problems

Communication problems may result in health services that are inconsistent with the problems and needs of Burmese migrant workers as it is impossible to tell the true symptoms and illness. Even in some cases when there was a Myanmar interpreter available to help translate the conversation was not translated correctly or it became meaningless because both interpreters have no knowledge of the technical terms or medical terms. In some cases, when visiting the hospital, they were unable to tell the problem of their illness resulting in receiving only paracetamol, which could not alleviate their symptoms in the event of an emergency crisis. Some Burmese migrant workers have

died in cases such as accidents or illnesses during the night as there was no interpreter available to prevent any delays in receiving treatment.

4.2.2.3.4 Problems Accessing Health Services

Burmese migrant workers reflected on the problem of inequality and fairness in the health service system such as the attitude and communication of officials who sometimes appeared unfriendly. In addition, the quality of the medication received was not at par with those received by other service recipients, like their Thai colleagues, who had similar symptoms and illnesses. Instead, they were given different medication and their symptoms did not improve after taking the drugs. From the in-depth interview, it was found that common diseases and illnesses among male workers and the common Burmese female laborers are as follows.

A. Male Myanmar migrant workers

Most workers suffered from muscle aches, followed by respiratory diseases such as asthma, chronic cough and pulmonary tuberculosis. They contracted these ailments during work hours and outside work hours. Moreover, there were cases of gastrointestinal diseases including gastritis, liver disease such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B virus and some were also infected with HIV.

B. Female Myanmar migrant workers

Currently, female workers aged 30 years and older are beginning to suffer from high blood pressure, diabetes, some complications during pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and are infected with HIV.

4.2.2.3.5 The Cause of Death of Burmese Laborers

The most common causes of death for Burmese workers in the past one to two years are:

- i) death due to an accident, where they were hit by cars while crossing roads, followed by careless motorcyclists with no driver's license, among other.
- ii) death from diseases and illness, such as respiratory disease, which is an exacerbation of asthma during the night and failed to receive timely treatment, and
- iii) die from HIV infection.

The way of life of Burmese migrant workers illustrates the link between health problems and needs. This is because of the belief culture in self-care, improper sanitation, sanitation at work and accommodation, which is often crowded and unhygienic and inaccessibility to health services. These all affect the health condition. The results from this research are consistent with the research of Mon (2010) who conducted a review of the situation and developed the Migrant Research Range Chart in the northern region. In their study, the authors found that migrant workers had significant health problems, namely incorrect health care behaviors and often contracted illnesses such as diarrhea, food poisoning, tuberculosis, HIV.

In Trang province, there are problems with access to services, all of which are a problem with migrant workers. However, there are still interesting health issues that are specific in Trang province which is an industrial area where, currently, migrant workers had become ill with chronic diseases. They include high blood pressure and diabetes which were mostly found in female labor groups aged 35 years and over. It could be said that the diseases and illnesses occurred as a result of changing health behaviors such as

consumption of ready-to-eat bagged food sold in front of the factory comprising meat dishes such as curry and coconut milk rather than self-catering that focused on local vegetables. This also include drinking iced coffee and tea, consuming more soft drinks and the lack of exercise, among others.

A problem found among the male labors was the sexually transmitted diseases due to the wrong attitude about using condoms. In addition, there were also some Burmese migrant workers who decided to use the services of the Mon folk doctors rather than the public health services due to the government's restrictions. The language and ethnic bias of service providers were also ways of life that affected the health care problems and needs. Pearson et al. (2006) observed that the life and well-being, work patterns, residences, and rights and protection of migrant workers varied in different occupational groups and in different regional contexts.

In addition, foreign workers live in over-crowded accommodation, often leading to unhygienic conditions. There is no sanitation in the workers' accommodation. The compilation of the Environmental Health Report in 2002 found that the emphasis on a sanitized environment was not as successful as it should be since environmental health operations cover an average of only 50 %. A survey of the area found that environmental health in the home of almost all migrant workers was relatively low. There was no care and cleanliness. Moreover, the environment was polluted by wastewater and sewage, which is a breeding ground for insects and diseases in the digestive system. As well as a damp, dirty and cluttered conditions, the accommodation did not have good ventilation which was the source of respiratory disease. This was caused by daily life consumption

behaviors that show low quality of life, as well as the lack of attention of the employers in looking after these foreign workers, thus causing the epidemic to reach the Thai people.

Myanmar migrant workers were believed to be the ones who brought epidemic diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. However, since some might not be registered, it was not possible to predict whether these migrant workers were infected or not. The unregistered migrant workers would not dare to go to the hospital because of fear of being arrested. Those who came for treatment would be foreign workers who had been suffering from severe illness. In 2002, a disease control and prevention exercise, found epidemic to be the most prevailing health issue. In foreign factories, diarrhea, followed by malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS were the main concerns. In addition, non-Thai diseases, such as elephantiasis, were recorded from 423 Burmese migrant workers. A health examination of foreign workers before the renewal of their work permit revealed that out of a total of 444,480 people, 2,961 people were found to be infected with TB, followed by syphilis with 1,863 people contracting the disease. In addition, among these foreign workers, up to 1,879 people were addicted to drugs and had to be repatriated. Nonetheless, these workers would flee back to Thailand, which contributed to the cause of crime and other social problems.

Myanmar migrant workers are believed to bring new diseases to Trang. The legally registered migrant workers were required to undergo health checks against diseases from the provincial public health office and would receive health insurance cards. However, Myanmar migrant workers in Trang faced a lot of problems and have a great impact on public health in the province. This could be due to the trouble in accessing public health

services and receiving valuable info on the undesirable effects on health conditions for migrant workers, such as the spread of important communicable diseases. The local workers interviewed in this study claimed that the request for hiring Myanmar migrant labors in Trang revealed that some illegal migrants carried contagious diseases and illnesses that Thailand had previously managed to control.

The diseases were found malaria, tuberculosis, elephantiasis, dengue fever, leprosy, meningitis and HIV. Nonetheless, if the government failed to take action to control these diseases, they would spread throughout Thailand again. The impact on the expenditures or budget on public health of native workers would be stretched thin as the government would also have to spend looking into these problems. In other words, the state would have to share the incomes of the Thai people in encouraging the health of the migrants which covers disease regulator and deterrence, including the involvement of medical workers, medical equipment, expenses and time to follow up on solving public health difficulties of migrant workers. This is especially the case in Trang provinces where the government will have to bear the high problem because many people use the facility.

A staff at the Ministry of Migrant Department commented that in mobilizing all foreign labors at various industries, the Burmese migrant workers should first be required to be present at the immigration office for screening to prevent the spread of any diseases and health issues. In case of foreign workers become ill, staff dealing with them had to be extremely careful so as not to get exposed to some of the pathogens which could propagate among themselves, such as the back-end Kan, the elephantiasis and the red-eyed elephantiasis. Moreover, the cost of controlling the impact of serious illnesses on public

health and the cost of treatment requires a large amount of budget. There is also a problem with bio-hygiene and the safety issue in the working environment of the foreign workers.

Similarly, Chalamwong (2012) observed that the entry of foreign workers would increase the number of people using public services in Thailand which, when combined with the Thai people, would increase the number of public service users or public consumers. As a result, the government would have to increase the number of personnel and budgets for various services to cater to the increasing number of users as well.

4.3 Chapter Summary

Trang province is affected by the presence of Burmese migrant workers in all aspects; social, economic, public health and security. This study is focuseed on the economic and social problems and impacts on Trang province. This chapter highlights the safety problems to life and property expressed by the local community involving various crimes such as the smuggling of illegal migrants. Problems arising from the influence of drug trafficking groups, prostitution and children of migrant parents are a burden on the Thai government's budget in providing basic life support including public utilities, schools for Burmese children, humanitarian practice and the problem of migrant children born in Thailand.

Pollock and Lin Aung (2010) had studied the impact of illegal foreign labors and discovered that some employers have sought benefits from hiring these workers by providing minimum pay and not providing complete legal benefits. There was also the possibility of using illegal labor as slaves and the conduct of abusive sexual harassment. These workers dare not lodge report to the authorities because they themselves had broken

the law, although some people who could no longer stand the treatment would escape. This had caused damage to Thailand, especially with trading partner countries in Europe and America, which often take these issues as a barrier to trade with Thailand. Similarly, Thailand has brought up these issues as a trade barrier as well.

Naknok (2016) used to analyze cases where Thailand has been ranked at the lowest level (TIER 3) in solving crimes. Countries in this category do not comply with the minimum standards in US criminal law and do not make significant efforts to resolve human trafficking. This may have a profound impact on the country's economic activities, especially the seafood industry that exports to the USA and the EU. The industry will be greatly affected. This may cause Thailand to lose revenue around €575-730 million per year, or about THB20,240 to 25,696 million.



CHAPTER FIVE

POLICY ON MIGRANT WORKER'S LABOR MARKET

5.1 Introduction

Thailand is experiencing a large number of Myanmar migrant workers in the industrial, commercial, agricultural, transportation and construction sectors, to name a few. Therefore, Myanmar migrant workers have been coming to work in Thailand, both entering Trang province legally and illegal even though the state has been trying to control and set rules for the migrant workers. However, there are still lack of awareness and compliance with the law enforcement measures as well as inefficient management of migrant workers in the overall picture. Moreover, there is a problem in hiring illegal migrant workers on economic sectors. They also brought social problem, resulting in many trading countries imposing a barrier or reducing trust which has a very negative impact on labor market in Thailand (Tanchaitranon & Charoensukmongkol, 2016).

This study finds that the cause of economic and social problems affecting the Thai labor market is the policy of accepting migrant workers to work in Thailand. If the Thai government has been strict and has imposed severe penalties, the engagement of migrant labors could have been managed more efficiently with less negative results. In his writing, Khai (2012) discussed that the problem of migrant labor was caused by unclear policies at the various departments dealing with migrant workers, therefore, causing the government to bear many different burdens. This chapter highlights the guidelines for the management of Myanmar migrant workers to ensure stability in the Thai labor market

with relevant documents and research, including the entry policy of Myanmar migrant laborers from the past to the present, the situation of illegal labor and the organization problems of migrant labors affecting the Thai labor market in Trang.

Moreover, this chapter presents basic information, including analysis from studies and research on documents relating to migrant labor management policies. It can be concluded that the current situation and rapid change in the world affect the stability of many countries, including Thailand. There are indications that national security is affected by the management of migrant workers on many levels. It touches the effect on the economic and social aspects of the native labor market as discussed in chapters three and four. In addition, it can be linked to the problems of migrant workers according to the characteristics of the entering the country.

5.2 Labor Market Entry Policy for Myanmar Migrant Workers

The migrants who had enrolled to work in Thailand in 1996 had been in the country for a long time (Paisanpanichkul, 2001). The Thai government attempted to discourage these migrants from staying longer by not repeating their labor licenses to open up occupations for Thais who were displaced by the fiscal disaster that started in July 1997. The strategy was to dispose of 200,000 outsiders in 1997 and 300,000 in 1998. For instance, the administration had intended not to renew the labor license of migrants working in rice mills since June 1, 1998. Factories were employing about 20,000 workers and that relocation would decrease the distribution of rice. In reply to requests from mill holders, the administration decided to prolong the registration of migrants working in rice mill to

4 August 1999, resulting in the continued control of migrant presence in the mill's labors (Chantavanich, & Jayagupta, 2010).

According to Wongboosin (2006), when the Thai budget started to recover in 1998, 91,000 migrants had been enrolled by Thai companies. The companies were able to register new migrants in 1999 and 2000 and had around 150,000 recorded each year. In 2001, when the then Prime Minister Taksin Sinawat was voted into office, the registration of migrant workers at 76 provinces was extended, covering entirely manufacturing sectors. Besides, Thai companies had also registered 568,000 migrants in the project that started on 28 August 2001. The firms paid a fee of THB3,250 (US\$74) for each individual migrant, with a health insurance fee of THB1,200, legal documents for six months (THB900) identity card (THB150) and a deposit of THB1,000 if the migrants vanished.

Six months later, additional legal payment of THB900 and a health charge of THB300 were imposed, bringing the entire fee to THB4,450 (US\$101). However, merely 350,000 people who had received a work permit in 2001 were registered again in 2002. In several situations, firms had paid charges and deducted them from the wage of migrants, which was usually covered a minimum income of THB133 to THB165 a day. In 2001, the registration fee and related chargers for registering a migrant worker were equivalent to nearly a month's wage.

The National Security Council accepted a six-part solution. For the benefit of trade, the National Security Council accepted a six-part solution on illegal migration on 21 July 2003. It involved the numbers of migrants on demand for the sector, with the objective of

reducing the participation of migrant families in Thailand, calling for the issuance of a protected ID card to migrants and applying minimum income and additional rules. One new requirement of the 2003 amendment was to encourage migrants to arrive at the last point (or place) where labor licenses were issued. This could be achieved by encouraging financial expansion at the border zones of the migrants' country of origin and creating programs for migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos to travel for a career prospect in Thailand. Thai companies were requested to send the numbers of "necessary" migrants to the Ministry of Labor, where 245,100 companies responded with a demand for 1.5 million migrants.

At the same time, Thailand had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos for legal migration and employment. Under the MOU, Thai companies had requirements of migrants confirmed by the Thai authorities. A government agency was sent to recruit and chose migrants to fill existing job vacancies so as to enable them to prepare documents for the permits and, subsequently, apply for visas at the respective embassies. Migrant workers would then travel to Thailand and hand over the necessary documents to their Thai companies confirming that they had obtained the necessary labor licenses and were, therefore, eligible to receive the same wages as the Thai workers (Chalamwong, 2012). Migrants were required to apply for a renewal when their work permit expired. However, during the process 15% of their income would be suspended in the country of origin. There were doubts about the total number of migrants in Thailand. Therefore, from July to August 2004, all migrants in Thailand were required to record with the Ministry of Interior without being charged. Registration is an

inducement that would provide migrants with documents that could enable them to stay in Thailand for many years.

However, about 1.12 million migrants were at the government workplace just to take pictures. Only companies were able to register migrants for work documents and submit payments to the Ministry of Labor. Companies registered 849,552 migrants by disbursing THB3,800, consisting of THB1,800 for a one-year valid labor document, THB600 for health check, THB1,300 for wellbeing assurance and a registration fee of THB100 (Derks, 2013). On 19 July 2005, the Cabinet passed a resolution that migrant workers could register until 30 June 2006 by paying a special fee, which saw 705,293 migrants registered.

Firms were able to register 668,576 migrants again in 2006. Moreover, there were 53,202 migrant workers registered under the MOU, resulting in an increase of 722,000 registered migrant workers. Around two-thirds of the projected entire numbers of migrants recorded in 2000. However, the proportion of recorded migrants were less than 50% (this was an estimate because the total number of migrants was unknown). Meanwhile, between 2000 to 2003, the numeral of illegal migrants appeared to exceed the number of legal migrants, occasionally two to one. It was renowned that the administration had agreed to allow companies to employ as many migrants as they desired. In contrast, it seems that several firms could not get a work license for migrants who had come to work (Martin, 2007).

In 2006, firms required 1.3 million migrants but the administration ratio was 1.2 million. However, merely 475,000 labor licenses were delivered. The key aim for the

inconsistency was that 41 % of the needs for migrants were in “additional segments,” a mere 5% of the work licenses were issued to migrants in “other sectors.” In 2007, the Ministry of Labor created a four-part plan to achieve labor migration. It consisted of conducting an MOU within the three main countries, procuring employers for illegal migrant workers to register, learning the billing scheme of migrant employers (as in Malaysia and Singapore) and develop props and seasonal job programs for migrants working in boundary parts.

The Ministry of Labor acknowledged that there were 668,576 registered migrant workers in 2006. Out of these figures, the work permit of 85% of 460,014 Burmese workers was due to expire on June 30, 2007. The labor license of a total number of 208,562 people had expired on February 28, 2007 (the were hired by new companies). Thai firms which had hired the same group of migrant workers were able to apply for the extension of their work permit for another year. Eventually, 3,988 migrants from Cambodia and Laos were accepted under the MOU, resulting in the number of registered workers increasing to 721,778 in 2006.

The most significant change recently was the signing of bilateral MOUs between Myanmar (June 2003), Cambodia (May 2003) and Laos PDR (October 2002) to adjust the immigration organization. Under the MOU, Thai companies must be recognized by the Thai authorities and they were required to provide info on the number of migrant labors desired to the government. This was to enable the government to convey the information to private companies (in Cambodia) or government agencies (in Burma and Laos), where potentially suitable migrants would be chosen to fill the job vacancies in Thailand.

Migrant workers handed in their passports to the respective Thai embassies earlier before going to Thailand so that they could get documents for a two-year labor license which could be renewed once. Migrants were required to depart when their work permit expires, receiving 15% of their suspended wages to encourage them to come back (these salaries would be lost if migrants could not return). Employment underneath the MOUs were initiated in 2006, after Thai companies demanded 51,100 Laotian and 17,500 Cambodian migrants (Huguet, 2014). Up to 10 % of those employed under the MOUs completed their two-year agreement. Comparatively, few migrants arrived in Thailand under the MOU for a diversity of reasons, including the time-consuming and expensive recruitment measures. In Cambodia and Laos, it was a necessity for a potential migrant's to obtain documents from residential and regional establishments before proceeding to the capital, a procedure that could take three to five months.

Even though the information about the careers and the laborers must be conveyed via online, the origin country has not developed a computer system that is compatible with people in Thailand. High fees are a major obstacle to the legal movement underneath the MOU. Cambodian migrants visiting Thailand underneath an MOU were required to accept the agency's recruitment fee, which is usually 20% of the first year's income in Thailand (approximately THB3,700 per month, resulting from a minimum salary of THB144 per day) removed from their wages and directed to the authorities (Holomyong & Punpuing, 2014). These fees were between USD\$350 to USD\$500, which is higher than the cost of the baked goods from Cambodia to Thailand. Some Cambodians would use a pass card every day, which costs THB10 (USD0.35) to arrive Thailand and work unlawfully, particularly those who have a relative in Thailand to find work and shelter.

Employments in Lao were also expensive. The Prime Minister's Decree issued only 68 permits and five hire agencies, two of which were state companies, to control 15% of the legal migrant's fees, that is, what they would receive from abroad in employment fees. It was unclear if the recruitment unit might charge extra fees for permits, health examination and additional expenses. In relation to this, half of the Thai companies would advance THB15,500 in employment charges and wage to the respective Laotian company. The additional half would be paid when the migrants arrived in Thailand, which would be deducted from the income of the migrants. In contrast, entry through illegal means such as smuggling from Lao PDR into Thailand would cost about USD\$60 to USD\$85 of a month's salary, which was equivalent to five to six months fee for those who migrate through the normal channels.

While Thailand considers migration policies for workers in the mid - decade of 2007 - 2017. It was expected that Thailand's economic development would continue at a higher rate than that of the migrants' respective country. As a result, the push - pull factors in the migrants' country of origin and inter-connected border networks tend to support migration. Moreover, the main question was whether migrants would reach and work in Thailand document or undocumented. Since migration was registered at the beginning of 1990, Thailand had experienced an arrival of migrants into the nation, mainly from Myanmar. On the other hand, most of these migrants might not have received a permit or immigration card that was necessary for them to work lawfully in Thailand.

Nonetheless, in certain conditions, individuals from selected countries could apply for a visitor's visa which would enable them to get a passport that would allow them to work in

the destined country. The Thai cabinet has decided on the type of migrant labors and to confirm the registration of workers or provisional camps. Dissimilar organizations of unregistered people in Thailand comprise unregistered migrants, migrants from war pressures, literati, companies which did not have permission to issue Thai permits.

The cabinet had allowed selected companies to hire migrant labors by quickly increasing the scope and possibility of effort permitted through the worker registering scheme. The first company selected by the cabinet in 1988, was accepted in 10 provinces along the Thai-Burma border. In 1993, the cabinet allowed the registering of fishery and fish dispensation workers in 22 coastal provinces. For the first time in 1996, the cabinet passed a resolution to establish a two-year work permit system for foreign workers in 39 provinces and eight manufacturing companies. In 1998, 43 shelters were expanded and 11 production plants were set up. By expanding the number of migrant workers to 54 provinces and creating 47 career categories, it assisted in the (economic) development of the country (Arnold, 2005).

In July 2003, the Security Council of Thailand accepted a solution to the unusual immigration management issue regarding the concept of registration and labor permits. This amendment was limited to six key methods, which include:

- i) the adoption of abnormal migrant workers in some sectors but with a limited amount based on the needs of the sector
- ii) the preparation of personal records and identity cards for migrant workers
- iii) employment was merely for migrants and not household memberships

- iv) to ensure that appropriate income is salaried
- v) the implementation of actual return actions; followed by
- vi) the economic development of areas at the Thai boundary in order to decrease the amount of city immigration.

To get a work document from the Ministry of Labor (MOL), illegal migrants must record with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) at their home. The MOI annals everyone who lives in Thailand but the MOL is responsible for looking into work-related problems of foreign workers certified by a company. In the process of obtaining a work permit, migrants must undergo medical inspection at a specified hospital. When that is done, migrant workers would then be entitled to medical treatment as if they are were Thai people. In 2004, there were 1,284,920 migrant labors (with migrants of all ages) recorded. However, merely 831,275 people applied for a work license from the Ministry of Labor.

In 2006, the cabinet permitted the registering of migrants again, which showed the amount of migrant labors recorded with the MOI reaching 1,523,289 (of which 55% are men and 45% are women) (Garip & Curran, 2010). The Thai government implemented the Foreign Workers Act in 2008, including lessons from registration in 2004. However, the registration scheme was still founded on the renewal of work licenses, which saw a reduction in the number of registered migrants. For instance, in 2007 the entire number of recorded migrants was 546,272 and by 2009 there were only 382,541. In 2009, the newly registered migrants reached 1.1 million with 939,940 (85.8%) from Myanmar, 84,166 (7.7%) from Laos and 70,778 (6.5%) from Cambodia (Derks, 2013).

Despite the efforts of the Thai administration to expand the migration registering procedure, there were still many illegal migrants in the country. The issues that had caused the migrants to endure the undocumented status comprise information about the registration procedure and the incapability to travel and register when companies refuse to participate. In addition, it was also due to registered migrants not fully protected in terms of work environment, income charges and elementary human rights. Lastly, the high registration charges, had affected the ability of several migrants from registering all mature family. In principle, companies are required to pay a work license fee. However, several companies refused to do this. Companies would repeatedly keep copies of the migrant workers' work licenses or passports to prevent the workers from taking off.

Formerly, migrant labors were not permitted to change companies and leave the workplace. However, it was discovered that limitations have the potential of resulting in the exploitation of all types of employees. In 2008, work license owner could change companies on the off chance that they consented to pay for the new work permit. Although migrant workers had submitted the work permit application, the process for obtaining the documents would take about ~~are mere~~ one year. Martin et al. (2007) recommends that a labor license be delivered for two years for a fee. The fees for the work permit or license should take into account the period of employ. For instance, a reduced payment for seasonal labor in farming or for labors who do not have to leave their accommodation for one year.

5.2.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Thai government, which had entered into an MOU on labor cooperation with Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, recorded an understanding permitting vagrants of those nations to legitimately travel and work in Thailand for a limit of four years. Migrants who have been hired for four years must rest three years before putting in application for jobs in Thailand again. The key objects of the MOU are:

- i) approving a suitable process for hiring migrant workers;
- ii) approving the actual deportation of foreign labors;
- iii) raising the defense of migrant labors; followed by
- iv) preventing the movement of illegal migrants, human trafficking and employment of them.

Although the MOU project was a valuable way for managing immigration from neighboring countries, there were still many loopholes. It is significant that the MOU states that it was agreed that workers could stay for a maximum of four years, provided that they return after a three-year absence. Nevertheless, the present registering and work license scheme is not limited to the maximum length of stay. Previous studies have shown that many registered labors have been in Thailand for five years or lengthier (Arnold, 2005).

The amount of time that migrants were allowed to work in Thailand interferes with their net profits from immigration. The shorter duration of the MOU related to the registration scheme would discourage migrants from fulfilling the requirements of the MOU. The decrease in the participation of migrants under the MOU program would affect the range of requests made by the MOU. The numbers of migrants required by employers are

difficult to find. For instance, in 2006, companies demanded 51,000 Laotian and 17,500 Cambodian labors. Despite this, merely 7% of Laotian migrants and 3% of the Cambodian migrants needed really arrived. Furthermore, 10% of the migrant labors who migrated underneath the MOU program left Thailand earlier the expiration of the two-year period. The long and costly procedures had restricted the development of the MOU in importing migrants. Under the MOU, the needs of the companies in the implementation of the requirements was estimated to take two to three months.

The following listed the bilateral MOUs between governments:

- i) Thailand - Laos – an MOU on employ assistance by the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare on 18 October 2002.
- ii) Thai-Cambodian assistance – an MOU on contracted labor between the Minister of Labor and the Minister of Social Affairs of Thailand which covered occupational training and childhood reintegration on 31 May 2003.
- iii) Thailand-Myanmar – an MOU regarding labor employment cooperation by the Thai and Myanmar Foreign Ministers in June 2003. The labor license is useable for two years and could be extended for an additional two years.

In addition, introducing migrant labors under the MOU is exclusive. Migrant labors received earnings of about THB20,000, an equivalent of USD588, to relocate under the MOU program (Tsuneishi, 2005). Although this amount was high, the company would normally send money to recruitment agencies and the totals would be deducted from the wages of the migrant later. However, the high price of importing migrants under the MOU became a problem for companies. For example, an industry that requires 100 workers

would have to borrow THB2 million or USD58,824 to bring in migrant workers. Therefore, through the Nationality Verification (NV), the Thai government announced a desire to eliminate unusual migration.

5.2.2 Nationality Verification (NV)

To complete this purpose, the government accepted the National Verification procedure (NV) for Cambodian, Laotian and Burmese workers in 2003. The system was intended to record a large number of illegal migrants currently living and working in Thailand. In November 2009, 125,156 migrant workers received the NV, of which 62,020 were migrants from Cambodia, 58,430 were migrants from Laos and 4,706 were Myanmar (McDougall, Natali, & Tunon, M, 2011).

Although there were not at all indications of duty and informal arrests, the Thai and Myanmar governments had announced numerous campaigns to eradicate this rumor. The NV's measures were complex, inefficient and expensive. At first, labors were desired to record for the NV procedure by 28 February 2010. Upon fulfilling the NV appeal, migrants were required to fill out their biography on the application form that the employer has received from the Ministry of Labor or the Provincial Employment Agency (PEO). Subsequently, the Department of Employment would send the NV application form to the department of the country of origin (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2009). When their identity is confirmed, migrant labors would receive a provisional passport. They would then have the right to apply for a visa and a two-year labor license. Working through every step of the NV procedure would take months. The period it took to comprehensive the NV procedure with migrants from Burma was similar.

While the NV process center for Laotian and Cambodian migrant labors remain in Thailand, migrant workers would have to cross the boundary to present themselves at the provisional Burmese passport office. These centers were in the two border cities of Tachileik and Myawaddy. Migrant labors had to spend a large amount of their salary to pay a high fee for the NV. The total price calculated reached to about THB9,000 and it covered various costs such as food, travel and processing charges. Subsequently, migrants would have to pay THB3,980 or USD117 for a work license, health examination and health assurance.

The NV was seen as a delicate problem. Human rights campaigners were troubled about the problems and the unlimited high price. The registration of the NV which was due to end on 28 February 2010 was later extended to 2 March. The Thai government made it clear that the NV registration process would no longer be available after 2 March 2010. In 2009, the Director of Research for Labor Development, Human Resources and Social Development Projects of Thailand's Development Research Institute (TDRI) had evaluated the price of the NV and found it to defile the principal of human rights and susceptible to human trafficking. For instance, migrants such as the Rohingya Shan and migrant labors born in Thailand, could not prove nationality. Their future position was not clear (Suphanchaimat et al., 2017).

Table 5.3: The number of Myanmar immigration in Thailand on March 2018

Unit: Person

Status	Men	Women	Total
NV	619,869	467,405	1,087,274
MOU	361,866	275,904	637,770
Tourist	4,814	2,238	7,053
Total			1,732,097

Source: Suttiwichienchot and Sampattavanija, (2019)

In 2018, the Ministry of Labor stated as shown in Table 5.3 that nearly 80% of the Myanmar migrants were from the National Verification (1,087,274) program. About two-thirds who are holders of a large number of passports were officially admitted to Thailand under the MOU while 2,576 were normal tourist. However, it was believed that between one-two million illegal migrants did not register.

The creation of a network of migrant workers is an urgent need in the modern times because in the past, the process of supervising, monitoring and controlling migrant workers to comply with the law still did not work for Thailand. This is because Thailand has yet to integrate the database of foreign workers and those responsible for management in the same database. As can be seen from the data used to check migrant laborers, the government did not dare decide the primary person responsible or the host for management. There were only reports on how many legal migrant workers there were but these reports failed to reveal the exact figure of illegal migrant workers in Thailand.

Therefore, in the era of Information and communications technology (ICT) management, a main database for migrant workers must be created and assembled from a network of relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice Army, Navy, Office of the National Police, Immigration office and others. This would create a system for managing the only database on Myanmar migrant workers to enable those responsible to monitor and maximize benefits to Thailand.

It could be seen that the problems of migrant workers are a national problem related to national, economic and labor securities (Rights of workers) that should be taken seriously. Thailand must have a long-term plan for managing migrant workers in line with the national development policies and the related agencies must integrate. Government officials must be strict in enforcing the law and stop corruption. Similarly, employers must be socially responsible and be legally compliant for Thailand to have a system of labor migration management that meets ASEAN standards. The management of migrants working in Thailand is one of the responsibilities of the committee under the Emergency Decree on Management of migrants in 2017.

Nonetheless, the cooperation of the agencies both at the central and local levels including private sector agencies covering both the business sector and the private development departments as well as international organizations are essential. They all have a role to play in making the management of migrant labor in Thailand effective in the future. From the study of the management of migrant workers in Thailand from the past to the present,

it could be seen that the government has tried to manage Myanmar migrant workers by using various measures and methods. The final goal is to get migrant workers to be legal labors so that the government can inspect and control migrant workers systematically.

5.2 Migrant Law Penalties

Thailand does not deny entry of unskilled migrants into its territory but tries to limit this group's entry as accurate as possible under the "Immigration law". This is considered the first barrier in the interception. Illegal immigration may also be considered a need to improve any vagueness in existing laws involving the issue of immigration. The main components of this law focus on conditions that foreigners must comply to and documents to show to enter Thailand. In most cases it is a matter of the purpose of travel to enter the Kingdom. In addition, they must be able to show proof of their means of living and financial status as well as to show the innocent intentions of entering the country. In other words, they have no intention of searching for a job for unskilled workers or people without any professions.

Nonetheless, the problem that may still be considered as a gap in this law is the imposition of illegal migrants. As a result, the punishment prescribed for a foreigner who escaped into the city is maximum imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding THB10,000 or both. Moreover, the offender may be subject to a daily fine of not more than THB200 per day for the duration of his stay in the Kingdom illegally, compared to other ASEAN member countries--such as Singapore that uses unskilled workers as well. The penalty imposed by Singapore for the same offense is a sentence of up to four years and a fine not exceeding THB150,000.

In addition, this law in Thailand aims to punish those who are involved in illegal immigration than aliens who violate the law. Therefore, it is worth considering that the penalty rate is not that high and became a factor that made the aliens dare to escape into the city. While awaiting deportation, illegal migrants may be “quarantined” or “bailed”. In doing so, the law is at the discretion of the authorities, resulting in different practices where some foreigners were immediately repatriated while others were detained or released. The use of discretion raises questions about the opportunity to escape and the right to detain a foreigner in the Kingdom. As a result, rules may be needed to ensure that the exercise of discretion by the officials is clearer.

5.4 Management problems of Myanmar Workers Affecting the Thai Labor Market

For decades, Thailand has been using both compulsory policies, strict and lenient in managing Myanmar migrant workers. Until now, Thailand has used short-term measures to manage labor shortages and spills of illegal migrant workers. The Cabinet’s resolution to waive the extension of time for migrant workers to have temporary residence rights and registration for annual work permits, proved to be ineffective in solving the problem of migrant workers. It was found that the number of officially registered migrants with the responsible agencies has decreased each year. This has resulted in the government having to open a new registration for migrant workers again (Sontisakyothin, 2000).

In addition, the policies and management of current migrant workers were ineffective because of principle reasons such as:

- i) There are measures that create excessive restrictions on migrant workers and give little importance to rational management towards the demand of migrant

workers. This is because migrant workers have to bear all costs from registration, employment and the NV. In addition, workers are also prohibited from leaving the province where they work, if not authorized by the authorities or they have to travel with the employer. At the same time, the government also deducted the wages of migrant workers to send back to the fund in order to ensure that workers are sent home when the contract ends. Registered migrant workers must work with the employer without a written contract. In addition, they have no right to establish their own unions.

In addition, the working conditions and wage rates of these workers will not be checked. At the same time, migrant workers must report to the office every 90 days and are not allowed to leave the country. If the migrant worker receives a temporary passport to go back to visit the family at the home country, he/she must get the permission from the immigration bureau beforehand and pay fees for returning to the country (Paisanpanichkul, 2001).

- ii) The legal and disorganized frameworks that are scattered and the inconsistent management of immigration of foreigners and migrant workers is done by many government agencies. Different agencies have different laws to enforce the mandate they have received which is spread throughout many departments and agencies that will look at the issues of the migrant workers differently. There is still a lack of coordination among various departments within the ministry; each agency does not understand the mandate of the other.

In addition, being a legitimate migrant worker, a migrant worker must take various steps. First, the individual has to go to the Ministry of Labor to register and obtain a work permit. This is followed by a trip to the Ministry of Interior to obtain an alien identity card. Then he/she will have to go through the Immigration Bureau to get a residence permit in Thailand and through to the Ministry of Public Health for the health examination. Such complex procedures and management are one of the reasons that pushed some migrant workers to choose to avoid the legal process and work illegally after registering and proving nationality, including workers brought into the country through a legitimate MOU process that often acts in a similar manner.

- iii) There is no mechanism to protect the rights of workers and strengthen the migrant workers' situation adequately. Although the Labor Protection Act BE 2541 provides protection for migrant workers' rights regardless of their immigration status, but it does not cover workers in any manufacturing fields such as agriculture, fisheries, service branches, and domestic workers. In addition, the weak laws of 2008 looked at migrant workers as opposed to Thai workers in terms of rights and protection. Even in businesses, that are protected by labor laws, sometimes the enforcement of the law is still problematic and does not cover migrant workers wholly. Migrant workers experience difficulties in accessing legal assistance services and do not know the rights that are required in the legal process when experiencing problems with work.

The mechanism by which migrant workers will complain against the unfairness and exploitation from employers is limited, especially when migrant workers are unable to form an organization. In addition, the government does not have an orientation program

or preparation before entering work for both migrant workers and employers regarding the relationships that should exist in the context of work and rights. In addition, some provisions of the Labor Protection Laws are discriminatory. For example, regulations in the workplace require that they must be written in Thai only. At the same time, there are no clear guidelines for the rights of migrant workers to participate in various committees that affect the welfare of workers such as the welfare of the workplace, safety and environment committee in the workplace and the employee welfare fund.

- iv) Lack of integration in the framework of the organization and management of relevant laws for the formulation of policy guidelines for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs for migrant workers. Nowadays, the management of migrant workers who entered from the three neighboring countries is under the supervision of the Foreign Labor Management Committee which was set up in accordance with the regulations of the Prime Minister's Office in 2001. The Chairman of the Board is the Prime Minister but he assigns the Deputy Prime Minister to be the chairman. The committee consists of representatives from various associated ministries. There are 12 administrative and management workers, four civil servants and eight temporary employees.

The increasing entry of migrant workers at Trang province was a result of the factors of national development which focused on being the production base of the industrial sector that allowed more opportunities to invest in Thailand. As a result, Thai government found it necessary to establish a system to manage foreign labors in the state management

system. This is in order to effectively monitor and create security and security for the arrival of foreign workers (Iredale, Turpin & Hawksley, 2004).

The measures to regulate illegal foreign workers are good and correct that the government sector must carry out based on the truth that can be practiced. Organized in many ways the matter is, therefore, a matter of discussion between the recipients. The impact includes the problems of foreign workers in Thailand, both legal and illegal who are living and working in the country. These labor groups are all problems that the state must pay attention. It is very important in terms of rights, livelihoods and the ability to live within the state system. Otherwise, it will result in social problems and lead to economic damage, when economy is an important foundation of the country.

On 17 June 2017, Thai government announced a new law, the "Foreign Labor Management Act", which is appropriate in revising the law on the work of migrant and the law on bringing foreigners to work with domestic employers. Employers that accept foreign workers who do not have a work permit has the right to be fined from THB400,000 to THB800,000 per employee. By managing the work of migrant in a systematic manner, an effective and clearly defined work for foreign workers and the prohibition of illegal workers from working would reflect a modern and updated economic development situation (Chalamwong, 2004). This is in line with an observation made by a staff with the Ministry of Labor who stated that in the future, this group of Myanmar migrants will definitely need to use labor. There are also other implications that Thailand will have to fix due to the alleged claims of human trafficking from the international community that is making it difficult for the country to partake in international trade.

Additionally, the centers that oversee the application process of individuals who wished to work abroad in the respective countries should cooperate in screening these workers at the early stage. In Thailand, every provincial recruitment office will open for registration. Moreover, there are questions set for employers and employees to seek confirmation and clarity. At present, Thailand has around 2.6 million foreign workers and is confident that half of them are illegal workers. This group will be greatly affected by this decree and the chaos was clearly visible after the announcement of the Foreign Labor Management Act (Tangcharoensathien et al., 2017). As a result, more workers are gradually returning home because this group of workers has no clear choice in staying connected to the work.

Suphanchaimat et al. (2017) stated that Thailand has many agencies responsible for managing foreign workers without joint operations in general. There is clearly no one responsible department. The system of migrant labor cannot be completely implemented and there is incomplete migrant labor information. There are many relevant laws and regulations, together with multiple departments responsible for this issue. Therefore, the process of migrant labor will not be centralized if this continues. It may affect Thailand, both socially and economically, including the management of migrant workers in the future which is difficult to fix or modify.

According to employer, "The business of a Thai trader may collapse if there are no migrants to buy and pay for the product such as vegetables and fish. Workers return home or did not dare to come out for fear of being caught and must be in the location." In contrast, there are foreign workers from some countries who are well protected by

government officials. There was an opinion that State officials in the area may receive benefits and, therefore, take care of the protection as well because of the protection that they received from the alleged officials, this group of workers tend to avoid going to work. As one interviewed Myanmar migrant worker claimed, "Thailand is the only country in the world where migrant workers can live freely. The law is not strict enough to deal with these issues because government officials receive benefits (corruption)."

Khongthanachayopit and Laohasiriwong (2017) argued that migrant laborers fleeing from immigration, human trafficking and unclear migrant labor management policies, which included placing various measures that are not universal, made it difficult to comply with the law relating to the administration of foreign labor in Thailand. In addition, recruiters, employers, and staff are involved in extensive corruption. This include the lack of coordination of migrant labor administration information for relevant departments due to unclear information system and the inability to link data between each other.

Moreover, an illegal Myanmar migrant worker reported that the police would find ways to extort money and confiscate wrongful valuables from the migrant. There were also instances when arrested, the migrant workers would have to pay bribes to the police ranging from THB200 to THB8,000 or more, depending on the locality and the situation of the migrant. Those who did not have enough money to pay would be asked if they have relatives or friends who would be willing to help pay (Bal & Gerard, 2018). In addition, the laborers shared similar opinion that the immigration problems related to foreign workers were considered a threat to one form of government as the government could not

solve the problem but expecting employers to fear the severe penalties and, consequently, dared not hire migrant workers without a work permit.

The severe penalties of the Foreign Workers Act, 2017, may pave the way for brokers to request more commissions because whether entering or leaving the country migrant workers will have to pay brokers on all channels. Hence, there may still be a way for these brokers to follow the law whilst organizing the migrant workers to gain benefits. According to an informant who is a staff with the Ministry of Labor some entrepreneurs want convenience to register migrant workers legally. However, the registration involved a complicated sequence of steps. Employers who break the law faced severe fines but would appeal against paying the full fine.

However, illegal migrant workers are continuously increasing every year. In this case, it was unavoidable to consider the “wage” issue. The Thai government had a policy of raising the minimum wage to THB300 a day in 2011. Nevertheless, increased wages did not produce a consistent rate of labor productivity. As a result, businesses that were affected by the increased in the minimum wage and were unable to adjust had to close down. Some businesses had chosen to relocate their production base to neighboring countries to rely on workers in those countries that have lower wage rates than the minimum wage in Thailand. Hence, the minimum wage policy not seen as helping the Thai industry. In contrast, it was a help to low-skilled labor, most of whom are migrant workers, to receive higher wages and brought about a surge of workers from neighboring countries who were expecting to receive an additional rate of THB300 (Kampan & Tanielian, 2017).

A local worker suggested that the government should bring in the amount of employment data from employers to allocate positions and use the labor demand information to labor agreements, such as MOU. There are agencies in the form of organizations for hiring migrant laborers between the government and the private sector which cover the selection of foreign labor, employment contract, moving job, social security and labor protection. This would facilitate the movement of unskilled migrant workers by not allowing an employment broker to unfairly charge workers and, in accordance with international standards, to solve the labor shortage problem and prevent the violation of human rights of foreign workers including human trade.

Thai society is weak and the management lacks efficiency and transparency of responsible agencies, resulting in Thailand having to face more pressure and risk as well as changes in the country. The development of communication with modern technology has resulted in more complex threats and risks. Therefore, there is a need to come up with different approaches in solving labor problems, dilemmas and obstacles to the duties of the authorities in correcting the problems related to the work of aliens. This included the development of the potential of officials in resolving the issues of illegal alien workers effectively in order to achieve the objectives (Yesmin, 2016).

All local workers interviewed in this study agreed that the economic, social and environmental conditions have change rapidly. As a result, the faith of local workers has changed and they were not keen on the in difficulty, dirty and dangerous work as migrant workers. In addition, Myanmar workers were willing to accept low wage than local workers. Meanwhile, employers prefer migrants more than local. Some of the respondents

refused to stay with Myanmar migrant in the same area due to the historical factor and news report which made local workers fear them. Therefore, local workers have negative perspective toward the Myanmar migrant workers. It was difficult for the locals to accept them because the Thai government was unable to solve several issues in the long term.

According to the study, it was found that the implementation of the Foreign Workers Act 2017 had a wide impact. In an effort to rush the management of foreign labor through, the government failed to hold discussions with related parties. Moreover, there was a lack of study on its impact (Turper, Iyengar, Aarts, & Gerven, 2015) that had affected many sectors, especially with related agencies that were responsible for complying with the policy including entrepreneurs in various economic sectors of the country. The fee increase posed a burden on employers regarding the use of foreign labor such as registration fees for unskilled foreign workers, proof of nationality and illegal migrant workers, to list a few. The implementation of the 2017 Act might be an economic mechanism to make entrepreneurs aware and reduce the demand for unskilled foreign workers. Nevertheless, the implementation of the Act had created other problems. For some employers who relied heavily on unskilled migrant workers, it served as a double disadvantage for it led to the prevention and avoidance of the smuggling of unskilled labors.

5.5 Chapter Summary

Myanmar migrant workers, including those with minority status who entered Trang province illegally, would travel without certified citizenship from the Myanmar government. They were, therefore, free of any possession of legitimate identification

documents. Until now, many migrants still do not have any documents to certify their citizenship. Many Myanmar migrants faced the risk of becoming a stateless person. Although the Thai government allows illegal migrants to register and obtain work permits, there was a lack of clear explanation of the registration process. Moreover, the registration period was too short and no work permit has been issued to migrants under the age of 15. A health check has been made a requirement without clearly specifying the procedures involved. The conditions laid by the government required the cooperation of the employer. However, not all employers were willing to cooperate or would set unfair conditions and putting pressure on the application for work permits. Many migrants were unable to enter the Thai legal process and become feared in the Thai society.

In addition, migrant workers who passed the legal process faced the possibility of having their work permits confiscated by their employers, who would often hand them only the copy. Employees who do not have the above documents are often threatened with deportation or faced the possibility of being arrested since there is no proof to show that he/she is in the country legally. Many workers feel that there is not much difference in having a work permit or not. Moreover, migrants are required to pay for the insurance coverage to certain official, causing many migrants to pay tribute to these officials instead of registering. This study found that the root cause is the problems that existed in managing the policy of migrant workers who enter the country to take up a job. Therefore, in conclusion, the regulation concerning migrant laborers in Thailand must be taken seriously. Currently, it is a major issue. Illegal migrant workers entered the country due to economic differences. This is a pull factor for the illegal migrant worker. Moreover, these workers are needed for Thai labor market. However, a large number of illegal

migrant workers have come in causing a lot of problems and will seriously affect the Thai labor market in the long run. Therefore, the government should proceed to manage these issues systematically.



CHAPTER SIX

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

6.1 Introduction

In the previous chapter, the researcher answered research questions one, two and three through data collected from interviews, secondary data and observation. The responses were analyzed using thematic method. This chapter discusses the findings of the research in order to provide an overall picture of the phenomenon based on the interviews conducted. From the beginning of this research, the researcher developed three research questions that is:

Q1. What is the economic impact of Myanmar migrant workers toward Thai labor market?

Q2. What kind of social impact have these Myanmar migrant workers caused?

Q3. How could the Thai government efficiently improve migrant workers' policy?

6.2 The Economic Impact of Myanmar Migrant Workers Toward Thai Labor Market

The first research question tallied with the research objective. The first objective examines the impact of Myanmar migrant workers on Thai economy. The major finding is that companies has preferred to give jobs to Myanmar migrant workers since they provide cheap labor and this has rendered many Thai people jobless. It also found that the cheap labor provided by the migrant workers has affected the quality of Thai products. As a result, the Thai products exported outside the country face difficulty in competing in the world trade, particularly with other products within ASEAN. Another finding is that the

government has found it very difficult to provide jobs to the jobless Thai people since the private companies has been focused on migrant works.

Moreover, the study found that the high inflation of raw materials and wage rates have necessitated the companies to resort to cheap or low-cost labor provided by the migrants. The study discloses that companies hires migrant workers to reduce cost and continue with their businesses. Additionally, the study further reveals that the Myanmar migrant workers were attracted by the Thai wages which is better than what they earned in their country. This is in line with neo-classical economic theory which provides that worldwide migration is caused by the alteration in salaries and employment chances in the area or country at the macroeconomic level (Arango, 2017). The theory maintains that migration resulted from inequality that exists in the salary and labor marketplaces, especially among countries. Therefore, once the international wages variations disappear, there will eventually be no motivation for migration and migration will stop (Palat, 2017). Likewise, companies choose to hire Myanmar labors due to they are willing to accept low wages and can work longer than Thai workers.

The research found that Thai workers are not willing to accept equal wages with the migrants and, as a result they choose to seek jobs abroad. This has caused a brain-drain in the country since the Thai people have been going abroad for job and those Thai people who cannot work abroad remain jobless. This is in support of the argument of classical economic theory which states that immigration arises as result of inequality that exists in the labor market in completely dissimilar countries. Migrants analyze the predictable income during a clear or expected period in the destination country. Furthermore, the

study found that the low labor cost and unskilled migrant workers have caused inefficiency and low-quality products.

6.3 The Social Impact Caused Myanmar Migrant Workers

The second research question investigates the social impact caused by the Myanmar migrant workers. The main finding in this section is that Thai workers have negative image about Myanmar migrant workers. They see Myanmar workers as a threat to their social, economic and health security. The research also found that there is open-hatred and animosity toward Myanmar workers by the Thai people. This scenario has resulted in discrimination against Myanmar migrant workers.

Another finding is that the entry of Myanmar migrant workers into Trang province enable them to become part of the local community and that has created social problem of coexistence. Accordingly, very few local workers have good relationship with Myanmar migrant workers because they see them as economic and social liabilities to their country. In addition, the rate of unemployment among the local workers has facilitated conflict between local Thai people and migrant workers. This assertion is in consonant with the push-pull theory argument which proposes that unfavorable conditions, oppressive laws, political unrest and high unemployment push people to seek jobs outside their country. The favorable conditions in an external location naturally pull or attract people in. According to Pocock et al. (2018) found migrants working 18 to 24 hours a day with limited to no rest and with poor occupational safety, health and violence. Moreover, these findings are complemented by qualitative interview data collected on issue related to welfare in Thailand.

Moreover, with respect to public health problems, the study found that some Myanmar workers are carriers of new diseases to Thailand. Although migrant workers who are registered legally will receive a health examination and disease search from the provincial public health office and will be issued a health insurance card, the number is small compared to the illegal migrant workers. This group of unregistered migrant labors has created a lot of public health difficulties and concerns in Thailand as they have difficulty accessing public health services and receiving useful information, such as the spread or spread of important communicable diseases, that may have a negative impact on their health conditions.

According to a study by the Institute of Asian Studies Thailand, Development Research Institute and Institute for Population and Social Research on the need to hire foreign migrant labors in Thailand, 2007-2017, some unlawful migrant labors have contagious and unhealthy diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, elephantiasis, dengue fever, leprosy and meningococcal disease, that Thailand has managed to control. If remained unchecked or not well-controlled, it may cause the spread of these diseases in Thailand again. In addition, it may cause an increase on public health expenditures or the budget that the government has to spend to look after these problems. In other words, the government must share the incomes of the Thai local in the encouraging health care. Disease control and prevention including the involvement of medical personnel, medical equipment, expenses and time spent on following up on solving public health problems of migrant workers, especially in Trang province, will cast a high burden on the government because many people will be using the service. These inevitably create public health impacts for Thailand in the long run.

6.4 The Thai Government Efficiency in Improving Migrant Workers' Policy

With regard to the third research question, the study found that there are a lot of foreign laborers working in Thailand illegally. They are scattered throughout the country. Their total number and residence remain unknown. However, it is estimated that there are not less than three million illegal migrants in Thailand while the administration of alien workers is not as effective as they should be. Therefore, the problem of foreign workers inevitably affects the interests and security of the country, especially illegal migrants with Myanmar nationality. The most densely employed in the border with Myanmar is Tak, Chiang Mai and Ranong, down to the lower central region such as Samut Prakarn, Samut Sakhon and Chon Buri, which are the economic centers of the country and are industrial areas like Intense (Pangsapa, 2015).

Although the government has a policy to monitor Myanmar migrant workers, it is not as effective as it should be. In addition, illegal migrant workers had no permanent residence. There is movement in and out between countries working and living together for many migrant workers in Thailand for a long time which may cause problems among various nationalities. It is human nature, to coalesce into groups that belong to people with the same language, culture and beliefs, but it may create conflicts with people of different races, languages, cultures, and beliefs. The liberalization of large numbers of migrant workers for a long time could lead to requests for self-government and may be solved by fighting until it becomes a war that damages the nation.

Likewise, Tangcharoensathien et al. (2017) stated that it was difficult to manage migrants and achieve an organization's goals due to lack of efficiency in law enforcement. There is

a problem of non-transparency in the performance of government officials in some departments. For example, when the labor market is over-exerted, some migrant workers would become unemployed. Nevertheless, they need to support themselves and their families while still living in Thailand. Hence, they may resort to robbery, snatch theft or crime in various formats in order to get assets to spend for the sake of their family. The crimes, if remained unchecked, will affect national security. Therefore, the government must prepare sufficient budgets and manpower to prevent and eliminate crime.



CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUDING AND RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Introduction

This study discusses the theoretical as well as methodological contributions of the role of economic and social impacts of Myanmar migrant workers on native labor market in Trang province as the case study. The study also highlights the limitations of the study, and recommendations are provided to ensure that the Thai government will be able to manage the migrants and develop migrant policy for the country.

7.2 Concluding Remarks

This study investigates the economic impact of Myanmar migrant workers in Trang Province and the response of the local workers to the presence of these migrants. Base on this, the study examines the impact of Myanmar migrant workers on local labor market. According to push - pull theory, labor market factors and the imbalance between demand and labor supply are also factors that cause labor migration. If any country causes excess demand for labor in a particular branch regardless of whether the domestic laborers do not want to work in that field or because the branch is expanding rapidly, the demand is higher than the supply. As a result, labor will expand and push higher wages to pull migrant workers. Moreover, the push-pull factors are related to the economic factors of the migrant's country of origin which generally has a low level of development, low-income population and poor quality of life (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016).

In addition, the population might be driven to move to a country that could improve their quality of life or to escape the social problems of their country which was causing the population to become insecure and felt unsafe. Therefore, the people would seek a better living image. The study found that employers preferred to give jobs to Myanmar migrant workers since they provide cheap labor and this has rendered many Thai people jobless. It also found that the cheap labor provided by the migrant workers has affected the quality of the products. As a result, the Thai products exported outside the country faced difficulty in competing in the world trade, particularly with other products within Asia. Another finding is that, the government has found it very difficult to provide jobs to the jobless Thai people since private companies have been focusing on migrant workers.

Moreover, the study examines the social impact of Myanmar migrant workers. Basically, the study found that the Thai people have negative perception about Myanmar migrant workers. They see Myanmar workers as a threat to their social and health security. Push-Pull theory also explained that countless factors which drove people to move to an area. However, it was uncertain whether they would be accepted or rejected when they arrived at the country of destination (Lee, 1996). The research also found that safety problems concerning life and property where various crimes involving the smuggling of illegal migrants occurred. The influence of drug trafficking groups, prostitution problems, child problems with migrant parents, all of these problems are a burden on the Thai government's budget. The government has to provide basic life support including public utilities like schools for Burmese children, humanitarian practice and the problem of migrant children born in Thailand. Furthermore, the study reveals that the entry of

Myanmar migrant workers into Trang province has enabled them to become part of the local community and that has created social problem of coexistence.

Additionally, the research studies the migrant policy in Thailand. The findings in this section reveals that the Thai people have been experiencing chronic unemployment causing many to move abroad to work, particularly in East Asia and the Middle East. According to “push-pull” process, which could be explained as unfavorable conditions, for example, political unrest and high unemployment that “push” people out, and favorable conditions in an external location that “pull” them in. Ravenstein’s laws specified that the primary cause for migration was higher external economic opportunities which the quantity of migrant increases (Krishnakumar & Indumathi, 2014).

The study reveals that many Thais who work abroad experience discrimination and exploitation by the recruitment agencies or employers. Furthermore, the Thai government has not made any effort to attract those Thai workers to return and work in Thailand. Currently, Thailand is facing productivity gap as a result of its focus on unskilled and cheap labor that are provided by the migrant workers. The neoclassic economic theory suggested that this effects its capacity to effectively compete in the international market. The transfer of employees to countries with labor shortages should accordingly be linked to the economic factors in order to eliminate wage fluctuations between countries. When the international variations disappear, there would eventually be no motivation for migration (Palát, 2017).

7.3 Research Contributions

The study contributed significantly to the practical, methodological and theoretical knowledge. This research has provided essential contributions to the study of migrant workers in Thailand. The theoretical, practical and methodological contributions are discussed in sub-sections below:

7.4 Theoretical Contributions

Many studies have been conducted on migrant workers. However, there is lack of empirical study on the negative impact of migrant workers in Thailand. Accordingly, this study attempts to fill such gap. The study uses the push-pull and neo-liberal economic theories as tools of analysis. The two theories have been used in grasping the deep knowledge of the impact of the migrant workers in Thailand. Basically, the study has established the relevance of both the push-pull and neo-classical economic to this study. The push-pull theory is relevant because it explained the reasons why people migrate to work in another country for the economic benefits and better wages. Neo-classical economic theory identifies that worldwide migration arises out of alteration in salaries and employment chances in the area or country at the macroeconomic level (Arango, 2017). The theory sees inequality that exists in the salary and labor marketplaces generated migrant workers.

7.5 Methodological Contributions

Previous studies predominantly used quantitative method. However, this study uses qualitative method to study the impact of migrant workers on Thailand's economy. The in-depth interviews were conducted with informants who have relevant knowledge on the

subject matter. In addition, relevant documents were used to support or triangulate the data obtained from the informants.

7.6 Practical Contributions

The Thai Ministry of Labor is responsible for handling any matters related to migrants. The study will be of assistance to the Thai government in defining the minimum wage policy for Myanmar low-skilled migrant workers. The study will be a great help to the Thai government to eradicate unemployment among Thai citizens. Lastly, the study will guide the relevant private companies to properly coordinate employment and wages which is paramount to the success of the companies and the country at large.

7.7 Limitations of the Study

This study suffers several limitations. One of its limitations is the number of the informants used in this study. Setting a large sample of the informants could have expanded the scope of the data that were used in the study. Therefore, it will be difficult to generalize the findings based on this available data. Moreover, the findings of this research could be challenged due to the limitation of the methods used. However, the finding remains significantly important, as it contributes to the body of knowledge as well as open room for further research.

7.8 Recommendations

The study recommends that the Thailand government should create policy on migrant workers that will be in line with the principles of international labor standard. The policy should checkmate illegal migrants and regulate the legal migrant workers. Moreover, the

government needs to appreciate the contributions of the migrant workers in boosting the Thai economy and provide them with equal opportunity to welcome equitable treatments in their working places. Employers should be responsible not only for hiring migrant workers but also for training the employees to acquire modern and effective working skills. Additionally, the government should enforce minimum wage policy and ensure that there will be no wage discrimination amid migrant labors and the local Thai labors. The Thai government should accept only legitimate migrant workers based on the labor demand in the industries and that should not affect the employment of the local Thai workers and national security.

The study also recommends that the government and the private companies encourage their employees to acquire modern working skills that will increase efficiency in productions. This will also provide the country an economic advantage to compete with other countries within ASEAN and beyond. It should be noted that Thailand cannot use cheap labor to compete in production with other ASEAN member states. Therefore, creating and enforcing qualitative and effective labor becomes imperative to the Thai government. The modern technology and high skill workers increase productivity. Consequently, the government policy should promote use of modern technology, regional economic integration, skill acquisition, capacity building and competitive productions.

7.9 Recommendations for Further Research

1. There should be research on the conditions, needs and processes of migrant workers in other sectors such as the construction sector.
2. There should be a study on economic benefits of the migrant workers in Thailand.

3. Research should also be conducted on how illegal migrant workers commit crimes in the country such as human trafficking and other illegal businesses.



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APPENDIX A

List of respondents

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Phatcharon Youngkiri | (staffs of Immigration Department) |
| 2. Mr. Sriwapong Booncharoen | (staffs of Immigration Department) |
| 3. Miss. Niyomanee Songkeaw | (staffs in Trang Ministry of Labor) |
| 4. Mr. Wasin Krinjit | (staffs in Trang Ministry of Labor) |
| 5. Mr. Sarawut Kittinan | (employer of Thai Kong Rubber industry) |
| 6. Mr. Panupoong Ngampon | (employer of Fisher industry) |
| 7. Mr. Naing Aung | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 8. Mr. Kyaw Kyaw | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 9. Mr. Me Thet | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 10. Mr. Htoo | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 11. Miss Maung | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 12. Miss Lwin | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 13. Miss Oo Myo | (legal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 14. Mr. Shane | (illegal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 15. Mr. Myint | (illegal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 16. Miss Zin | (illegal Myanmar migrant worker) |
| 17. Miss Kanokwan Chirawat | (local worker) |
| 18. Miss Panida Rosalin | (local worker) |
| 19. Miss Yanika Saenlao | (local worker) |
| 20. Miss Naritsara Nanatakan | (local worker) |

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 21. Miss Phatcha Phatthrawadi | (local worker) |
| 22. Mr. Anuwat Saran | (local worker) |
| 23. Mr. Somchai Chantarangri | (local worker) |
| 24. Mr. Khathawut Thongsidum | (local worker) |
| 25. Mr. Chirawat Kamolsatidkul | (local worker) |



APPENDIXB

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

STATEMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT

Thank you for volunteering to participate in this interview which is an important part of my Master research at the University Utara Malaysia titled “The economic and social impacts of Myanmar migrant workers on local labor market in Thailand: a case study in the Trang province.”

In the course of the interview session, we shall engage in discussions covering the economic impact of Myanmar migrant workers in Trang province from 2013 and also the response of local workers from 2013 to 2018. The session will last for fifteen or less and may be audio and video recorded if you indicate your consent.

You may decide not to participate in the interview and you are not required to give reason for your refusal.

Your background and other information given in this interview will be confidential.

Your participation in the interview will not attract any pecuniary or non- pecuniary benefit from the interviewer.

Name

Address

Phone No

Age

Sex

Signature and date

APPENDIXC

INTERVIEW RESEARCH QUESTION GUIDE

Interview Question	Probing Question	Respondents
1.From your experience and observations what, in your views, are the root cause of the Myanmar workers migrations?		Local workers and Employers
2.What are the challenges you faced with migrant workers?	Were you personally affected by their presence/attitude/behavior/ work culture?	
3.How do Myanmar migrant workers affect Thai economy?		
4.How is the local labor market affected by the presence of Myanmar migrant workers?		
5.What is the relationship between Myanmar migrant worker and Thai worker?	Were you satisfied with the way they interact? living together?	Local workers, Legal-illegal Myanmar migrant workers
6.How do Myanmar migrant workers affect Thai community?		Local workers
7.How is the Thai community affected by the presence of Myanmar migrant workers?		
8.How did the Thai government respond to these impacts?	Did the Thai government make any provision for the Myanmar migrant workers?	Staffs in Trang Ministry of Labor, Staffs of Immigration Department, Employers and Local workers.
9.What are the weaknesses of migrant policy in Thailand?		
10.How does the Thai government manage its migrant policy?		